FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 MARCH 1984

Lebanon

IDF Redeployment Plan — The IDF is preparing a detailed plan for a new deployment in southern Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported. Nevertheless, no official decision on redeployment has been made and no date has been set for a Cabinet debate on the issue, according to IDF Radio. In a statement carried by Jerusalem television, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's communications adviser denied the television's earlier report that Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens have already decided to implement another IDF withdrawal and to submit a draft resolution in this regard to the Cabinet. According to the Tel Aviv daily *'AL HAMISHMAR*, opinions in the Cabinet and the IDF General Staff Headquarters are divided over the nature of a redeployment.

Security Situation — Clashes continued in and around Beirut and in the Al-Kharrub region further south, according to reports by the Voice of Lebanon, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, and the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio. An Israeli civilian was killed near Lake al-Qir'awn when his truck was ambushed, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio.

Meanwhile, in statements reported by Beirut and Voice of the Mountain radios, both the chairman of Middle East Airlines and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri declared that Beirut International Airport is expected to reopen shortly. However, sources from the Phalangist Lebanese Forces said they will oppose the reopening unless "firm guarantees" are given for the safety of passengers, airport employees, and aircraft, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. A Lebanese Forces official said the airport should not be reopened unless gunmen are withdrawn from the airport road, "elements" reporting on "certain citizens" using the airport are likewise removed from the buildings, a new security authority is established, and Army units loyal to the Defense Ministry are deployed along the access road from the Museum crossing point into East Beirut.

Political Situation — The new government will probably be headed by former Prime Minister Rashid Karami, Radio Free Lebanon stated on 9 March. Earlier, Phalange Party leader Pierre al-Jumayyil warned Syria that if it persists in refusing to leave Lebanon, the Christian side will reject Israel's withdrawal because Israel's continued presence in Lebanon will make Syria "seriously reconsider its presence" there, the radio reported.

In another development, Beirut radio announced that Internal Security Forces will shortly take steps to close all party offices established in West Beirut after 6 February.

Jordan-PLO

PRC President Li Xiannian arrived in Amman at the start of a 6-day visit for talks with King Husayn on bilateral relations and international issues, Amman radio reported. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will also arrive in Amman shortly to meet with both Husayn and the Chinese president, according to QNA. A Palestinian source cited by KUNA said 'Arafat's talks with Li Xiannian will cover all aspects of political and military cooperation.

Meanwhile, a Baghdad Voice of PLO radio commentary criticized Fatah dissidents for meekly submitting to Syrian orders to leave Lebanon and deploy in Dar'a, Syria, despite their "big clamor" about returning to Beirut. The arrival of dissident forces in southern Syria prompted Jordan to strengthen its forces along the border with Syria, the Tel Aviv Daily *HA'ARETZ* disclosed citing reports by West Bank residents who recently returned from Amman.

Iran-Iraq War

Military Situation — Tehran radio claimed further successes in the fighting at Majnun, asserting that Iranian forces crushed another counteroffensive, killing over 700 Iraqis and destroying 20 armored vehicles. A communique broadcast by Baghdad radio, on the other hand, said Iraqi troops and helicopters inflicted further losses on the Iranians.

Gulf Shipping — The Turkish Government is studying the legal implications of the recent sinking of a Turkish freighter in the Gulf in an Iraqi air attack, ANATOLIA disclosed. Two Turks were killed in the air raid, the agency noted. Meanwhile, INA reported the announcement by Lloyds Insurance Company that a British ship was hit by an Iraqi missile near Bandar-e Khomeyni last week. In Tehran, the Iran Insurance Company announced its willingness to insure all oil tankers loading at Khark Island and other Iranian terminals, together with their cargoes, on a 1-percent basis, according to IRNA. The company is backed financially by Iran's Central Bank and will pay for damages to its clients "in a speedy manner," IRNA asserted.

Arab Meeting — Jordan and the PLO have expressed support for Iraq's call for an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers to discuss the Iran-Iraq war, according to PETRA-JNA and KUNA. INAhas reported that Tunesia has also agreed to attend the meeting.

Iran

Judicial authorities have amnestied about 450 prisoners including a number of members of opposition "minigroups," Tehran radio reported. Nevertheless, the spokesman for the Supreme Judicial Council warned Justice Ministry officials that they will be held responsible for any "slow-down" in their activities, according to the radio.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

Middle East & Africa

Vol V No 048 *9 March 1984*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Fatah's Khalaf On Alleged U.S.-PLO Contacts *[Amman AD-DUSTUR 5 Mar]* ..... A 1
Muragha: No Palestinian Fighting Force in Beirut *[AFP]* ..... A 1
PLO Accepts Iraq Invitation to Emergency Meeting *[KUNA]* ..... A 1
Palestinian Resistance Meeting To Be Held in Aden *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 7 Mar]* ..... A 2
'Arafat Sends Message to UN Security Council *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* ..... A 2
'Arafat Receives Guinea President's Message *[INA]* ..... A 2
'Arafat Receives Message From Iraqi President *[INA]* ..... A 2
Baghdad PLO Radio on Israeli Bus Explosion 7 Mar ..... A 2
PLO Radio on Dissidents' Move to Dar'a *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* ..... A 3
Klibi Calls Chemical Warfare Reports 'Unfounded' *[AFP]* ..... A 3

OPEC AFFAIRS

Yamani Comments on Saudi, OPEC Policy *[SPA]* ..... B 1
Al-Chalibi on Patroleum Exports, Prices *[NOTAMEX]* ..... B 1
Nigerian Minister on Monitoring Committee *[AFP]* ..... B 1

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

French Defense Minister Holds Press Conference *[AL-QABAS 7 Mar]* ..... C 1
AL-QABAS Views Soviet Role in Mideast *[7 Mar]* ..... C 1

OMAN

Foreign Minister Receives Iraqi Message ..... C 1
Sultan Qabus Receives Mauritanian Message ..... C 1

PDRY

PDRY Chairman Congratulates Al-Asad on National Day ..... C 2
DFLP Secretary General Remarks Reported ..... C 2

YAR

YAR To Take Part in Emergency Baghdad Conference ..... C 2
Prime Minister Receives Saudi Minister ..... C 2
Delegation Leaves for Tripoli Meetings ..... C 2

EGYPT

'Ali on Iraq-Iran War, Lebanon *[AKHBAR AL-YAWM 3 Mar]* ..... D 1
Ghali Denies Israeli Report on Lebanon Invasion ..... D 1
Government To Follow Lausanne Conference Proceedings ..... D 2
Cairo Views Lebanon After Accord Cancellation ..... D 2
Cooperation Agreement Signed With Somalia ..... D 2
Turkish Commerce Minister Arrives 8 Mar ..... D 2
Kenyan Chief of Staff Leaves Cairo 8 Mar ..... D 3

IRAQ

Armed Forces Communique No 1,398 — 8 March ..... E 1
INA: Tunisia Supports Call for Conference ..... E 1
QNA: Iraqi Commander on Latest Iranian Offensive ..... E 1
Arab League Informs Arabs of Iraqi Memorandum ..... E 1
INA: Arab Front Hails Iraq's Victories ..... E 1
Lloyd's Says British Tanker Destroyed in Gulf ..... E 2

JORDAN

PRC President Makes Statement on Arrival ..... F 1
King, President Exchange Gifts ..... F 1
Husayn, Li Xiannian Banquet Speeches ..... F 1
Chinese Coverage *[cross-reference]* ..... F 4
Government Supports Iraq's Call For meeting ..... F 4
House Condemns Iran, Supports Lebanon ..... F 4
AFP: Junblatt Leaves Amman for Damascus 8 March ..... F 4

LEBANON

Birri on Airport Reopening, National Dialogue *[Voice of the Mountain]* ..... G 1
Lebanese Forces Set Conditions ..... G 1
Paper Alleges Plot to Kill Birri, Junblatt *[AMAL]* ..... G 1
RFL: Libyan Forces Placed Under Al-Jumayyil ..... G 1
Chamber of Deputies Adjourns Without Quorum ..... G 2
Speaker Comments on Cancellation of 17 May Accord *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ..... G 2
Karami Seen as Likely Prime Minister Designate *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ..... G 2
Recently Opened Party Offices To Be Closed ..... G 2
Christian Leaders Oppose Constitutional Changes *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ..... G 2
Lebanese Forces Unconcerned About Conference *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ..... G 3
Christian Leagues Union Denounces Cancellation *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ..... G 3
Political Source on Opposition Working Paper *[Voice of the Mountain]* ..... G 3
PSP Radio on Documentation for Lausanne Meeting *[Voice of the Mountain]* ..... G 3
Beirut Radio Editor Killed by Sniper Fire ..... G 3
Communist Party Official on U.S. Moves, Agreement *[Prague RUDE Pravo 5 Mar]* ..... G 3
RFL: Sources Call Al-Asad's Health Poor ..... G 4

SYRIA

Al-Kasm Continuing Contacts To Form Cabinet ..... H 1
Lebanon's Franjiyah Arrives in Damascus For Talks *[Ihdin Radio]* ..... H 1
Lebanese Nationalist Figures Meet in Damascus ..... H 1
KUNA reports 'Secret Visit' by Egypt's Al-Baz to Syria ..... H 1
Ba'th Official Addresses Women's Congress ..... H 1
YAR Minister Conveys Salih's Message to Al-Asad ..... H 3
PDRY Chairman Telephones President al-Asad ..... H 3
Papal Envoy Meets Al-Asad 8 March ..... H 3

ISRAEL

Shamir Interviewed on Lebanon, Syria *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 9 Mar]* ..... I 1
Shamir, Arens Meet on IDF Redeployment in Lebanon ..... I 4
Adviser Denies Meeting Report ..... I 5
Consultations on Redeployment Reported ..... I 5
Correspondent on Possible Redeployment ..... I 5
Schiffer: Positions on Redeployment ..... I 5
More on Redeployment Deliberations ..... I 6
Redeployment Alternatives Reviewed ..... I 7
Ministers Divided on Issue *['AL HAMISHMAR 9 Mar]* ..... I 7

David Levi Comments on IDF Presence in Lebanon ..... I 7
Terrorist in Jerusalem Store Bombing Captured ..... I 8
Israeli Citizen Killed in Ambush in S. Lebanon ..... I 8
Syria Wants Israeli Representation Out of Beirut *[HATZOFE 7 Mar]* ..... I 8
Military Government Renews Ban on PLO Meetings *['AL HAMISHMAR 7 Mar]* ..... I 8
U.S. Envoy Lewis: Reagan Visit 'Not Ruled Out' *[MA'ARIV 7 Mar]* ..... I 8

NORTH AFRICA

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi 8 March Speech on Syrian Anniversary ..... Q 1
Further Reportage on Bulgaria's Zhivkov's Visit ..... Q 5
Three Cooperation Agreements Signed ..... Q 5
Al-Qadhdhafi Statement on Zhivkov Visit ..... Q 5
Al-Qadhdhafi Sees Zhivkov Depart ..... Q 5
Joint Communique on Visit ..... Q 6
AFP: Former Envoy Alleges Plot Against Bendjedid ..... Q 8

MAURITANIA

Haydala Reshuffles Cabinet To Increase Efficiency ..... Q 8

SUDAN

Foreign Minister on Al-Qadhdhafi's Statements ..... Q 8
Chevron Director on Company's Works in Sudan ..... Q 9

TUNISIA

Mzali Greets Finland's Sorsa on Arrival ..... Q 9

CENTRAL AFRICA

CHAD

France's Guy Penne Briefs Habre on Africa Tour ..... S 1
Libyans Deport Girls, Force Men To Join Legion ..... S 1

CONGO

PCT-CPSU Cooperation Agreement Announced ..... S 1

ZAIRE

Soviet Ambassador Marchuk Concludes Tour, Comments ..... S 1

WEST AFRICA

GAMBIA

Government Announces Further Austerity Measures *[PANA]* ..... T 1

GHANA

Ivorian Agriculture Minister Leads Delegation Visit ..... T 1
Government Displeased With OAU Spending on Meetings ..... T 1

MALI

Traore Receives Message From Mauritania's Haydala ..... T 1

NIGERIA

SMC Meeting Opens; Draft Decrees Considered ..... T 1
Repayment Sought From OAU for Operation in Chad ..... T 2
Foreign Teacher Linked to Religious Disturbances ..... T 2

OUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

U.S. Conditions on Establishing Relations Rejected ..... U 1
Tanzanian, Cape Verdian Envoys Deliver Messages ..... U 1
SONANGOL Head Says 200,000 Barrels of Oil Produced ..... U 1
FAPLA Claims 5 'Bandits' Killed in Benguela ..... U 1
UNITA Claims 225 Enemy Casualties 28 Feb-5 Mar *[EFE]* ..... U 1

MOZAMBIQUE

Communique on Signing of RSA Nonaggression Pact ..... U 2
Chissano Comments on OAU Discussion of RSA Talks ..... U 2
France's Penne Leaves With Message From Machel ..... U 2
President Machel Meets With Nigeria's Envoy to UN ..... U 2
Minister Leaves for GDR Trade Fair, Contract Signings ..... U 2

NAMIBIA

Toivo Departs for Meeting With Nujoma in Lusaka *[SAPA]* ..... U 3
SWAPO Struggle To Continue *[Johannesburg]* ..... U 3
Nujoma Discusses Situation in Southern Africa *[Lusaka Voice of Namibia]* ..... U 3
SWAPO Official Mueshihange Calls for OAU Support *[Addis Ababa]* ..... U 4
SWAPO Terrorists Thought Heading for Botswana *[Johannesburg]* ..... U 4

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha Asks Botswana To Investigate SWAPO Moves ..... U 4
Defense Minister Malan Discusses Peace Initiatives ..... U 4
Bishops' Conference Leader Mkhatshwa Released *[Umtata Capital Radio]* ..... U 5

ZAMBIA

Mundia Discusses Corn Imports, Relations With Malawi ..... U 5

ZIMBABWE

Government Rounding Up, Expelling Illegal Aliens *[NAN]* ..... U 5
ZANU-PF Local Chairman, 2 Teachers Killed ..... U 5
Explosion at Power Station Kills 1, Injures 16 ..... U 6
Botswana's Mmusi To Attend Blumeris Funeral ..... U 6

Fatah's Khalaf On Alleged U.S.-PLO Contacts

PM091135 London AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Mar 84 p 27

[Unattributed report on telephone interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) in Kuwait — date not given]

[Text] The press and news agencies have recently published numerous reports about so-called secret contacts between the United States and the PLO. *THE NEW YORK TIMES* and the *INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE* went so far as to say that these contacts had reached an advanced stage before the invasion of Lebanon and would have led to what the two papers call a simultaneous mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO. The two papers also claimed that former U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig put an end to these contacts when he advised Israel to invade Lebanon.

AD-DUSTUR telephoned Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf — Abu Iyad — who is residing at present in Kuwait, and asked him about these reports. The Palestinian leader denied any serious contacts. He said: I personally had no knowledge of such contacts but I did later learn of some contacts made by a person called Bruce, an American Jew. I believe that these contacts were not at the required level. The aim of the United States was to drown the PLO in imaginary plans, as Bruce himself said after the invasion of Lebanon. Bruce said: "I used to contact Yasir 'Arafat to draw him away from the Moscow line."

Abu Iyad added: The nature of these contacts confirms that the aim of the U.S. Administration was to keep the PLO occupied while it prepared the complete plan for the invasion of Lebanon. As regards the claim that these contacts would have led to U.S. recognition of the PLO, I believe that this is an illusion. It was merely a message to some Arabs in an attempt to give the impression that the United States harbors good intentions toward the Palestinian people and the PLO. Anyway, Bruce, who held these contacts, works for an institute for East-West strategic studies, a den of the CIA which seeks to strike at the PLO and undermine the Palestinian people's aspirations. That is why I do not attach much importance to these contacts and see them as part of the preparations for the invasion of Lebanon, which later proved to be the case.

As regards the question of starting a dialogue with the United States within the context of its current policy, I believe that such a move would be futile because the United States has confined itself to the Reagan plan as a basis and maximum limit for relations with the PLO and the Palestinian people. If we examine the Reagan plan carefully, we will discover that it is the same thing as the autonomy defined in the Camp David agreements or the administrative rule which has been rejected by our people and the PLO in resolutions issued by the PNC. That is why such a course would bring us nothing new. We do not shut ourselves in and so do not say that there should be no dialogue with the United States, but the truth is that such dialogue always collides with the U.S. policy, which is hostile to our people and their aspiration to self-determination and to an independent national state of their own. I repeat that I do not pay much attention to such stories, which, I believe, are meant to give some Arabs the impression that the U.S. Administration is interested in holding contacts. Incidentally, this man Bruce is not an official personality. He is one of those people whom the U.S. intelligence always plants in imaginary foundations which it sets up here and there.

In reply to a question about the Soviet attitude and views regarding U.S.-Palestinian relations, Abu Iyad said: "I believe that in the Soviet assessment of U.S. policy toward the Palestinian people, they would be the first to encourage the initiation of dialogue and contacts with the U.S. Administration, but by virtue of their political position as a superpower they know the secrets of the U.S. Administration and what goes on in the minds of U.S. officials regarding the Palestinian question. I believe that they know that the aim of such contacts is to pave the way for a blow to or for the liquidation of the Palestinian cause, and that the Americans have no intention of supporting a national settlement. We must always bear this fact in mind."

Muragha: No Palestinian Fighting Force in Beirut

NC071729 Paris AFP in English 1721 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Shtawrah, Lebanon, March 7 (AFP) — Fatah dissident leader Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] today said no Palestinian "fighting force" had returned to Beirut but that certain former fighters had gone back to the area to visit relatives. "No Palestinian fighting force has been to Beirut, nor will any go in the future," said Abu Musa, leader of the Syrian-backed breakaway faction of Fatah, the largest group in the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). He was speaking after reports suggested that a small number of unarmed former Palestinian fighters had returned to the Beirut area, where they were kept under close watch by Druze and Shi'ite militias.

Speaking to reporters here in the Syrian-occupied Al-Biqa' plain, he said that "certain Palestinian fighters who are from the Beirut refugee camps are returning in small numbers to visit their relatives." But he said the "Palestinian masses in Beirut obey the command of the Lebanese patriotic forces" there. "We will permit neither our fighters nor the Palestinian civilians to take part in the actions of the patriotic forces in Beirut," Abu Musa said.

PLO Accepts Iraq Invitation to Emergency Meeting

LD081718 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1625 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis, 8 Mar (KUNA) — The PLO announced today its acceptance of the Iraqi invitation to attend an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers. The Palestinian news agency, WAFA, has reported that this acceptance was contained in a message addressed to the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who delivered it today to the Iraqi ambassador in Tunis.

Palestinian Resistance Meeting To Be Held in Aden

GF081616 Kuwait Al-ANBA' in Arabic 7 Mar 84 p 1

[Fatimah Mansur dispatch]

[Text] Prominent Palestinian sources have affirmed that a meeting of the resistance factions, which includes the Popular Front, the Democratic Front, the Fatah Central Committee, and the Palestinian Communist Party, will be held in Aden in a few days. The sources pointed out that reason for convening this meeting is to discuss and consult on the results of the talks that were held by Mr Yasir 'Arafat with King Husayn of Jordan and to adopt unified decisions by the leaders of the convening factions on these talks and their implementation. The sources also affirmed that during this meeting the date of the PNC meeting will be fixed, in addition to some other issues which are related to the PLO's foreign contacts.

AL-ANBA' has learned that a preparatory meeting, which was to include envoys of some resistance factions and the Palestinian national force and which was scheduled to be held in Algiers on 8 March in order to agree on a joint basis for Palestinian unity and to prepare for the PNC meeting which was also to be held in Algiers, has been postponed until next week. Mr Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, while in Kuwait as part of a Gulf tour to brief the Gulf leaders on the results of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, affirmed to *AL-ANBA'* that a conference to be held in Algiers by the PNC and the date of which has not yet been fixed, will be attended by most of the PNC organizations and members. He said that the most important thing which will be discussed during this conference is Palestinian national unity which has been undermined by the Tripoli incidents in northern Lebanon. He pointed out that the importance of this conference is to affirm the legitimacy of the PLO's leadership as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

'Arafat Sends Message to UN Security Council

JN081734 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has sent a message to the UN Security Council in which he stressed the PLO's call for adopting urgent measures to end the brutal actions against the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland. PLO permanent UN representative Brother Zuhdi at-Tarazi, who conveyed brother leader Abu 'Ammar's message to the UN Security Council last night, pointed out the recent terrorist action that Zionist settlers carried out in the village of the eastern Al-Mazra'ah in the occupied West Bank where they attacked a bus carrying Palestinian citizens, wounding six of them.

'Arafat Receives Guinea President's Message

JN081825 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis, 8 Mar (INA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat received here today a message from Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure, chairman of the Islamic mediation committee. The Palestinian news agency, WAFA, said that the message included a call for an urgent meeting of the Islamic mediation committee to put an end to Iraq-Iran war. WAFA pointed out that in a reply message, 'Arafat informed President Sekou Toure of his agreement to attend the aforementioned meeting on the time and in the venue set by the chairman of the committee. It is worth noting that the Islamic mediation committee that was formed by the Islamic summit, which was held in At-Ta'if in 1981, comprises Guinea, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Turkey, Senegal, Gambia, and the PLO, in addition to the ICO secretary general.

'Arafat Receives Message From Iraqi President

JN081633 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis, 8 Mar (INA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat received a message today from President Saddam Husayn dealing with the latest developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war. Nuri al-Wa'is, Iraqi ambassador in Tunis, conveyed the message to 'Arafat. WAFA noted that the message included President Saddam Husayn's appreciation of the PLO's stand on halting the Iraqi- Iranian war in order to defend the Arab land. The message also included Iraq's invitation for holding an urgent Arab foreign ministers meeting in Baghdad on 13 March 1984. WAFA said that 'Arafat notified the ambassador of his approval to hold this meeting in Baghdad on the day the Iraqi Government has specified.

WAFA added that 'Arafat gave the Iraqi ambassador a message for President Saddam affirming the PLO's concern about expediting the holding of his meeting because of the recent and serious developments due to the escalation of the Iraqi-Iranian war and the continuation of Iranian offenses against Iraqi territories.

Baghdad PLO Radio on Israeli Bus Explosion 7 Mar

JN071811 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Despite the siege and Zionsit terrorist practices against our steadfast Palestinian people in the occupied homeland and despite the various measures and security precautions of occupation, our hero revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland are further escalating their daring operations in defiance of occupation by asserting the continuation of armed Palestinian struggle against the Zionist enemy. This is in addition to all types of struggle to achieve our people's great objectives.

A group of our revolutionaries inside the occupied homeland carried out a daring operation against an Israeli military bus that was passing through Ashqelon [Ashdod]. The group planted highly explosive charges in the bus. The explosion entirely destroyed the bus, killing or wounding its Zionsit military passengers.

Occupation forces' spokesman admitted our revolutionaries' daring operation. He was obliged to admit that 2 were killed and 10 others were wounded, because there were big losses. He added that the Israeli forces immediately besieged the area, closed all entry points, and waged an extensive arrest campaign against Arab citizens. These forces detained 30 Palestinian youth for interrogation. The Zionist spokesman described this operation as

the most serious explosion that has taken place inside the Zionist entity since last December, when 6 Israelis were killed and 44 others were wounded in a similar explosion in Jerusalem.

The Ashqelon operation takes place less than 1 week after our revolutionaries' operation in the western sector of occupied Jerusalem which wounded 21 Zionists.

PLO Radio on Dissidents' Move to Dar'a

JN071936 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1606 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Those who formed forces in order to return to Beirut and who created a big clamor about this formation through Damascus media are now staying in Dar'a on the orders of Syrian intelligence. Dar'a is in southern Syria at the farthest Syrian point from Lebanon and Beirut. Just as any disciplined and official military formation that precisely obeys its supreme headquarters, the traitor dissident groups moved in a disciplined manner when they received orders from Syria. They were ordered to leave Lebanon and stay in Dar'a.

There is certainly nothing new here. We have always been affirming that the traitor dissident groups are instruments, and the role that they played against the Palestinian revolution was a well-studied role within a big conspiratorial plot that aimed and is still aiming at encroaching on Palestinian legitimacy and independent Palestinian decisionmaking in order to wipe out the PLO and the entire Palestine question.

Although the traitor dissidents' cards were quickly exposed — they showed a deviationist course from the beginning of battles in northern Lebanon against our Palestinian people in Al-Baddawi, Al-Barid, and Tripoli — they were eager to believe that the big slogans they raised would enable them to cover up the reality that they are agent and traitor instruments. Their presence in Lebanon — or more precisely, in the areas controlled by the Syrian forces there — was the theme of their big slogans, which they decorated with a lot of illusions and false claims. Therefore, what slogans will the dissidents raise in Dar'a today? What will they puruse from there? Whom will they fight? Why don't they inquire about the decision that ousted them from Lebanon following the abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli 17 May agreement?

Klibi Calls Chemical Warfare Reports 'Unfounded'

NC081723 Paris AFP in English 1709 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Paris, March 8 (AFP) — Reports that Iraq has used chemical weapons in its war against Iran are "unfounded", Arab League Secretary-General Chedli Klibi told journalists here today. Mr. Klibi, speaking after a meeting with French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson, said: "The small number of victims allegedly affected by chemical gases proves that the accusation is unfounded." So far 10 Iranian soldiers wounded during the current Iranian offensive into southeastern Iraq have been flown to Austria for treatment for burns, and 5 others to Sweden, where doctors said their wounds could have been caused by chemical weapons. The United States has also accused Iraq of using the weapons in the war, which began in September 1980. Mr. Klibi, who arrived here earlier today after talks in Baghdad with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, expressed hope that the European Economic Community (EEC) would push for peace between the two countries.

"It would be important for the EEC to state that one of the belligerents (Iran) is refusing peace," he said. Such a statement could be made at the March 19-20 EEC summit in Brussels, he said. France holds the revolving chairmanship of the EEC until the end of June. Since it is not an Arab country, Iran does not belong to the Arab League.

Yamani Comments on Saudi, OPEC Policy

LD081433 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1237 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Dharan, 8 Mar (SPA) — The minister of petroleum and mineral affairs, Ahmad Zaki Yamani, has stressed that the Kingdom's moderate stances regarding oil prices, which call for maintaining the price at a specific level, seek to protect the general interest. His excellency said that when oil prices became reasonable again, consumption increased, and perhaps they will increase gradually in the future.

In a lecture entitled "Petroleum Between Yesterday and Tomorrow," his excellency said he expects a large increase in prices to occur if petroleum supplies from the Arab Gulf stop for a long time. His excellency pointed out the danger of the continuing Iraqi-Iranian war and its effects in that regard.

His excellency stated that there will be a surplus in petroleum markets at the end of this year and at the beginning of next year. His excellency added that the consumption of petroleum energy will begin to rise, especially after 1987. In his lecture, his excellency talked about what is happening inside OPEC and the multiplicity of views regarding raising or lowering oil prices. He answered questions addressed to him regarding petroleum and its future.

Al-Chalibi on Patroleum Exports, Prices

FL072218 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2048 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 7 Mar (NOTIMEX) — OPEC Assistant Secretary Fadhil J. al-Chalibi has stated in Mexico City that the organization will limit petroleum exports to 17.5 million barrels a day. After indicating that the price of each barrel of crude oil — Arab light — would remain $29, Al-Chalibi said that OPEC is not trying to control the world or the international petroleum market. Al-Chalibi said OPEC's actions are aimed at strengthening the stability of the petroleum market, which has felt pressured to reduce its oil prices.

He added that the industrialized countries have spread the false idea that OPEC is responsible for the international economic recession, world financial crisis, and inflation.

Al-Chalibi also said that Mexico's petroleum policy coincides with OPEC interests because Mexico has the capacity to produce and export more petroleum but firmly keeps to its production and exportation levels.

Al-Chalibi, who is OPEC's interim secretary general, reiterated this organization's position of solidarity with the Third World as he indicated that development project programs and an exchange of products, among other things, are brought about through OPEC.

Nigerian Minister on Monitoring Committee

AB090620 Paris AFP in English 0408 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Vienna, Mar 9 (AFP) — Nigeria's new Petroleum Minister Tam David-West has confirmed that the new Nigerian Government is hoping for a higher crude oil production quota inside the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), but is prepared to await OPEC's mid-year ministerial conference. Mr David-West, in Vienna for a meeting today of OPEC's ministerial market monitoring committee, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE yesterday, "we cannot unilaterally give ourselves a bigger quota...I'm sure we have enough resilience to wait." He added that he foresaw "no panic situation."

Nigeria, which currently is faced with difficult debt-servicing problems, was allocated a quota of 1.3 million barrels a day (MBD) under the overall 17.5-MBD production ceiling set by the 13 OPEC countries a year ago to halt a slide of world oil prices.

Mr David-West thus denied reports that Nigeria would present aformal request for a higher quota to the monitoring committee session, which he will be attending as an observer. "We belong to a fraternity. As members of that fraternity we are bound by the collective decisions of the group," he said.

Questioned on reports that Nigeria's output had recently been running at up to 1.5 MBD, he said only that there had been "fluctuations" in output that were "natural."

Mr David-West said he had come to Vienna for today's meeting mainly to establish contacts with other OPEC ministers before the next OPEC conference, scheduled for July 10 here.

KUWAIT

French Defense Minister Holds Press Conference

GF081830 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 7 Mar 84 pp 1, 4

[Press conference held by French Defense Minister Charles Hernu before his departure from Kuwait on 6 March]

[Excerpt] [Unidentified journalist] What is France's view on the unified military power of the GCC countries, which was formed recently for the sake of defending the GCC countries?

[Hernu] France is closely following the formation of this force and is interested in this force which is still in the process of being formed. Since I believe that this matter concerns the Gulf countries, I do not want to interfere. Personally, I believe that it is important to form such a force. Moreoever, it is important that this force serve its own interests. We are following its formation. We know that Kuwait is also conerned with strengthening this force and making sure that it will be well formed. I believe that this matter concerns the GCC countries. The GCC has to assess the extent of the interests and the benefits of this force. We are seriously considering the formation and the establishment of this force. But we believe that the formation of this force must not lead to neglecting the building up and the boosting of the armed forces of each individual country.

As the French defense minister, I would like to say, while this force is still in the stage of formation and in the stage of getting equipment, that our country is fully ready to participate in equipping, training, and establishing this force, if asked to do so.

[Unidentified journalist] What can France do if the Strait of Hormuz is closed by Iran?

[Hernu] I do not think that we have approached the stage where the Strait of Hormuz will be closed, because the matter is not aseasy as some believe. As defense minister, I do not want to make prejudgments, but if this were to occur, France will not undertake any step without consulting the Gulf countries.

AL-QABAS Views Soviet Role in Mideast

GF081714 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 7 Mar 84 p 1

[Editorial: "The return of the Soviets and the Internationalization of the Middle East Solution"]

[Excerpts] Western diplomatic sources have pointed out that it is conceivable that Chernenko, the new general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, will have the opportunity to reap some of the positive results attained by his predecessor, Andropov, starting with the Middle East arena and ending with the issue of nuclear tension in Europe.

Undoubtedly, the latest Lebanese battle which has led to the expulsion of NATO forces, to reducing the U.S. role, and to the collapse of the Israeli agreement has counterbalanced the Soviet influence in Arab region to the point that it is incomparable with the situation that prevailed on the eve of the Lebanese-Israeli war when the Syrian and Palestinian allies of the Soviets retreated and the whole Arab area was at the mercy of the Israel and the United States without having any international protection.

The assessments of the Reagan administration could not have concluded that the Israeli adventure might reverse the situation in Lebanon. All the hopes of the administration focused on ensuring coercive Zionist control of Lebanon so as to frighten the remaining countries of the region into submiting to U.S. influence and requesting its protection.

The Western experts, particularly the French, expect that the Reagan administration will not put pressure on in the direction of making up for the Lebanese-Israeli agreement by a Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli pact during its stay in power, which will not last long. Therefore, this administration will not achieve anything different that what it has reaped on the Lebanese territories. The experts say that the United States has no other choice — if it wants a positive alternative — than to resort to the Soviet plan. This plan calls for convening an international conference in Geneva to be participated in by the Arabs, Israel, the United States, and the Soviet Union in negotiations in order to reach a so-called the just solution ofor all parties.

OMAN

Foreign Minister Receives Iraqi Message

GF081524 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah received the Iraqi ambassador to the Sultanate, Muhammad Ghanim al-'Annaz, in his office today. The ambassador delivered to him a message from the Iraqi foreign affairs minister on bilateral relations and the means to develop and strengthen them and on Arab and international issues of mutual interest.

Sultan Qabus Receives Mauritanian Message

GF081420 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id received a written message from his brother Mauritanian President Lieutenant Colonel Khouna Ould Haydala. The letter was received by Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Bu Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, when he received at his office this morning Mohamed Fadel Ould Dah, the Mauritanian president's envoy and minister of water supply and energy. He also conveyed the greetings of the Mauritanian president and his good wishes to his majesty the sultan of the country, his wise government, and the Omani people. The meeting was attended by the adviser of the Mauritanian Embassy in Jidda. Relations between the two fraternal countries, current developments in the Arab arena, and issues of mutual interest were discussed. Fahd Al Bu Sa'id asked the Mauritanian envoy to convey the greetings and wishes of Sultan Qabus to the Mauritanian president, government, and fraternal people.

PDRY

PDRY Chairman Congratulates Al-Asad on National Day

GF082028 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, held a telephone conversation today with Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic and secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and congratulated him on Syria's national day, which is 8 March.

ANA has learned that Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad wished President Hafiz al-Asad and the fraternal Syrian people success and further victories. He also expressed his satisfaction and the Yemeni people's joy for all the victories achieved by steadfast Syria in the ferocious confrontation existing between the Arab nation and the U.S. imperialist and Zionist enemies, pointing out that the abrogation of the recent Lebanese-Israeli agreement represents one of those victories which came as a result of the steadfastness of Syria and the national progressive forces in Lebanon, supported by all the honorable strugglers of our Arab nation and their friends. He affirmed that this victory was not only achieved for the Lebanese people, but for all our Arab peoples, foremost of which our Palestinian people, and that it paves a way for further steadfastness and victories and will result in the revival of a larger Lebanese national alliance which guarantees Lebanon's unity, Arabism, independence, and sovereignty. Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad reaffirmed our country's stance next to steadfast Syria's against all the imperialist and Zionist challenges and conspiracies.

DFLP Secretary General Remarks Reported

GF081628 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Excerpt] DFLP Secretary General Brother Nayif Hawatimah left Aden today after concluding a visit to the PDRY which lasted for several days [as heard] at the invitation of the YSP Central Committee. During the visit, he held a number of meetings with the party leadership, in which the current Palestinian and Arab issues were reviewed. In a predeparture statement to ANA, at Aden International Airport, Brother Nayif Hawatimah said that during this visit extensive talks were held between the DFLP and the YSP leadership. The views were identical with regard to the positions toward the issues of the Palestinian revolution, of the Yemeni revolution, and of all the Arab liberation movements at this stage. He also asserted that the Palestinian arena will witness in the next few months a series of consultations among the its factions — particularly the basic ones — in order to present working papers designed to discuss the unionist proposals so that the PLO can become united, strong, and be in such a position that all the factions and all the members carry out their duties to ensure the Palestinian people's right to return home, to self-determination, and to independence under the banner of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative.

He went on to say that the collapse of the 17 May agreement indicated that a small group of people, supported by the Palestinian resistance and Syria, was capable of inflicting defeat on Camp David II and that this paves the way for the great Egyptian people to cause the collapse of Camp David I. He pointed out that the Lebanese and the Palestinian resistance and Syria were capable of expelling the occupation forces from Beirut, Mount Lebanon, and its southern surburb and that this victory was crowned with the abrogation of the 17 May captiulationist agreement.

Concluding his statement, Nayif Hawatimah stressed the need to protect the alliance of the PLO with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries and the powers of liberation and progress in the world. He also asserted that this alliance constitutes a basic condition for the victory of the Palestinian people and the Arab peoples.

YAR

YAR To Take Part in Emergency Baghdad Conference

GF090439 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has stated the following:

The recent developments of the Iraqi-Iranian war and its serious escalation constitute a dangerous threat, not only to the region's security and safety, but to world's security and peace. Because of this, the YAR deems joint Arab action a very important thing, based on the commitment to the Arab League Charter and the joint Arab defense treaty and the resolutions of the 12th summit conference in Fes to face these regrettable developments because it is necessary to avert the threats incurred by this war and protect the nation's security. Therefore, the YAR considers the call which the Iraqi Government has made for an emergency Arab foreign ministers meeting in Baghdad a correct path for a joint Arab action.

The YAR Government has decided to participate in this meeting.

Prime Minister Receives Saudi Minister

GF081215 Doha QNA in Arabic 1155 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Excerpt] San'a', 8 Mar (QNA) — YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani today received Saudi Communications Minister Husayn al-Mansuri, who is currently visiting San'a'. During the meeting bilateral relations and means to strengthen and develop them in all fields, particularly in communications fields, were discussed.

Delegation Leaves for Tripoli Meetings

GF081944 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Our country's delegation, led by Engineer Muhammad al-Junayd, development minister and head of the central organ

for planning, has left for Tripoli, the capital of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, to take part in the joint YAR-Libyan ministerial committee meetings. The delegation left to take part in these meetings which will begin in the Libyan capital on Saturday.

In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, Brother al-Junayd said that he carries a message from Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, to his Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution.

He pointed out that during the meetings of the joint YAR-Libyan ministerial committee, the two sides will review what has been achieved during the past in the field of economic and technical cooperation between the two countries. He noted that these meetings will open new horizons in economic cooperation between the two countries, which is the desire of the two countries, to cement fraternal relations and to promote cooperation in various fields in a way that serves the interests of the two fraternal peoples. The delegation was seen off by the director of the Libyan People's Bureau in San'a'.

'Ali on Iraq-Iran War, Lebanon

PM081600 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 3 Mar 84 p 7

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali by Sana' as-Sa'id in Cairo — date not specified]

[Excerpts] Question: Recently you appealed to the international powers to force Iran to enter into negotiations with Iraq in order to resolve the current conflict, but you did not explain how Iran can be forced to do so.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: For some time now Iraq has clearly been demonstrating moderation. On several occasions and in different ways it has called for an end to the war. One example is the proposal it submitted to the Nonaligned Conference in Delhi last March and whose purpose was to demonstrate moderation and realize the demands of both sides. But Iran's intransigence has been and still is the stumbling block to any agreement. Many attempts have been made to end this war but all have failed.

Question: How can the deadlocked situation be broken? Can this be achieved by giving Iraq more weapons, particularly since this has become the only way to counter Iran's concentration of forces?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: I believe that Iraq is obtaining its requirements and needs for self-defense, which compensates for Iran's manpower supremacy. On the other hand, the world community must understand that the continued arms sales to Iran encourage it to continue the war. In addition to this there is a need to continue to give Iraq material aid. This is essential and vital so that the war economy will not suffer and, consequently, so that Iraq's military position will not be affected.

Question: What can you offer Iraq in addition to the arms and equipment you have already offered, particularly since it has been established that Iran's hostility to peace and its striving to escalate the war have led to the present situation?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: Egypt supports Iraq politically with its stands that call for an end to the war. It also supports it in every way that enhances its defense capability. This stand is part of Egyptian policy.

Question: There are those who say that aid to Iraq should be limited and just enough to prevent its defeat rather than ensure its victory, on the grounds that any clear victory by Iraq will in the long run spell danger to the Gulf countries. What is your opinion?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: I do not think that Iraq has any designs or territorial claims in the Gulf or in Iran such that its victory should be feared. Therefore, support for Iraq is a duty and is necessary to deter Iran and make it realize that continuing the war is futile and that it cannot affect Iraq economically or militarily.

Question: The abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement is viewed as a means to save Lebanon from domination by Israel and the United States, the latter having recently threatened to reduce its commitments to Lebanon if the agreement is abrogated. What is your view today regarding the agreement, given that in the beginning you supported it?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: In all circumstances Egypt's view has been that no part of Lebanon should remain under occupation Our attitude toward the Lebanese-Israeli agreement is based on the view that it is a step that will actually lead to total Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Moreover, we believe that the Syrian forces should not remain in Lebanon. We realize that there are historical interests between the two countries, but this does not mean that Syria should insist on keeping its forces in Lebanon.

For this reason we have, as I said, supported the agreement as a step toward the withdrawal of foreign forces. In our view this also gives the varous parties in Lebanon the opportunity to reach a reconciliation and prevent them from falling under Israeli or Syrian domination.

Question: Certain European countries recently suggested the possibility of the Syrian forces remaining in Lebanon after the Multinational Force is withdrawn. You also have often said that Israel should first withdraw from Lebanon without making this withdrawal conditional upon Syria's withdrawal. Have your views changed today following the recent developments in Lebanon, with Syria having the upper hand there?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: We have from the beginning believed that Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon is the responsibility of the Arab countries that empowered it to send a deterrent force to Lebanon. For this reason we say that Israel's withdrawal should not be simultaneous with Syria's withdrawal. We believe that Israel should begin withdrawing first and then be followed by Syria, or that withdrawal be simultaneous at certain stages. But what is important is that the forces of neither country should remain in Lebanon. That Lebanon should remain independent is an Arab and not a European demand.

Ghali Denies Israeli Report on Lebanon Invasion

NC091106 Paris AFP in English 1049 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 9 (AFP) — The Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Butrus Ghali, formally denied today an Israeli press report quoting him as saying that Egyptian leaders had agreed to a "short surgical operation" by Israel against Palestinian guerrilla bases in southern Lebanon.

In an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, Mr Ghali said *THE JERUSALEM POST* report was the result of either "bad understanding or bad faith."

THE POST, in an article appearing today, quoted Mr Ghali as saying that he was among the Egyptians who had been informed of plans for the intervention a month before the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Mr Ghali confirmed that he had given a 90-minute interview with the author of the article. But, he said, Egypt had agreed neither to "a limited nor to an unlimited intervention," adding that officials in Cairo had been "doubly deceived" by the Israeli invasion in June 1982.

"We were deceived by Likud, which betrayed its promises not to intervene in Lebanon, and deceived by the Labor Party, which kept silent." Likud was the party in power at the time.

In its article, *THE POST* quoted Mr Ghali as saying Egypt had understood the operation would be similar to the 1978 campaign, when Israel carried out a major attack on Palestine Liberation Organisation bases.

"We were given to understand that Labor would oppose anything beyond what the Al-Litani operation had been — going in, doing what had to be done, leaving Lebanese soil quickly and completely," Mr Ghali was quoted as saying.

Government To Follow Lausanne Conference Proceedings

NC081540 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 8 Mar (MENA) — Egypt has decided to ask Ambassador Sa'd al-Fararji, permanent Egyptian delegate to the European UN Headquarters in Geneva, to follow up the proceedings of the second round of the Lebanese reconciliation conference which is to be held as of Monday in Lausanne in Switzerland.

In stating this today, a Foreign Ministry source said that Egypt is following with interest the development of events in the Lebanese arena and it hopes that the Lebanese reconciliation conference in Lausanne will succeed so that security and stability will be achieved in this fraternal country which has been disrupted by civil war.

Cairo Views Lebanon After Accord Cancellation

NC081730 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Muhammad Sharaf Commentary: "Analysis of the Situation in Lebanon After the Cancellation of the Lebanese-Israeli Accord"]

[Text] It is completely clear that the cancellation of the 17 May Lebanese-Israeli accord has created a radical change in the situation in Lebanon, and that preparations have actually begun to hold the second round of the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference in the Swiss town of Lausanne next Monday. All signs indicate that all the representatives of the Lebanese parties who had participated in the first round of the dialogue will participate in the second round. It would be wrong for anyone to be overly optimistic regarding the possibility of achieving a real national reconciliation in Lebanon soon. The Lebanese crisis is extremely complicated as we are well aware, and the lack of confidence among the parties to the crisis is deep-rooted. While it would be wise for everyone to attempt to put the past behind them if they really want to attain the main objective of safeguarding Lebanon's independence and territory, it will not be easy to get rid of this past with all its ordeals and rancor. We can give an example on this: Despite the fact that the agenda of the second round of the Lebanese-Israeli [as heard] dialogue has not been announced, well-informed sources have said that there were basic differences between the Lebanese government and the opposition on the priority of the questions to be discussed. While the government believes that the conference should concentrate its discussions on basic reforms of the Lebanese constitution, the opposition representatives insist, in a unified stand, on the need to pinpoint those responsible for the shelling operations targeted on the mountain and the southern suburbs of Beirut. Moreover, those who are aware of the nature of the differences among the Lebanese communities know that reaching a balanced form of coexistence among those communities is extremely difficult because an incorrect application of the old Lebanese formula had given, especially to the Maronites who are represented by the rightist Phalange party, concessions which no one expects will be easily given up. Then there are the forces who oppose Lebanon's independence and territorial integrity and whose strategies are based on cutting off vital parts of Lebanese territory. Foremost of these forces is Israel.

There is no doubt that the cancellation of the 17 May Lebanese-Israeli accord has been a blow and a setback to the policy of Israel and to the policies of those states who support it. On this basis, it is natural that Israel should denounce the cancellation of the accord and announce through its prime minister and defense minister that it intends to take separate measures for what is calls safeguarding its northern borders. However, what Israel had announced about the nature of those measures prompts circumspection: The Israeli defense minister has said that the Israeli army will remain in south Lebanon to protect Israeli security and that it will not withdraw except after measures are taken with the local leaders of the southern inhabitants. This precisely means the cutting off of south Lebanon and the application of laws that are being applied in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Syrian Golan. Although we do not believe that will easily take place, the problem is extremely grave and must be repulsed with force by the Lebanese people, the Arab nation, and the international community.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Somalia

NC081606 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Egypt and Somalia have signed an economic, cultural, technical, education, and scientific cooperation agreement. Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, signed for Egypt and Somali Vice President Mohammed Ali Samantar signed for Somalia.

Turkish Commerce Minister Arrives 8 Mar

NC081401 Cairo MENA in English 1335 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 8 (MENA) — Cahit Aral, Turkish minister of commerce and industry, arrived here this afternoon leading a delegation for a five-day visit for talks on promoting Egyptian-Turkish relations in the various economic and trade fields.

In a statement upon his arrival, Aral said he will have talks with the economy ministers and the businessmen of the chambers of commerce. He will also attend the inauguration of the Cairo 17th international fair.

Kenyan Chief of Staff Leaves Cairo 8 Mar
NC090627 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2320 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 8 Mar (MENA) — General Molignui, chief of staff of the Kenyan Armed Forces, and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo tonight following a 7-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of Lieutenant General Ibrahim al-'Urabi, chief of staff of the Armed Forces. During the visit, the Kenyan chief of staff held talks with Lt Gen al-'Urabi on boosting cooperative and friendly relations between Egypt and Kenya.

Armed Forces Communique No 1,398 — 8 March

JN081740 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,398 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 8 March 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The glorious sons of Iraq and the heroes of our valiant Armed Forces are continuing their fight against the aggressor Khomeyniites with honor and bravery. They are continuing their decisive attacks and courageous battles to crush the covetous invaders and to inflict the greatest possible losses and defeats on them and their frustrated remnants. The results are as follows:

1. Our brave units continued their capable actions against the enemy units opposite our positions in the area east of Basra. Our forces dealt the enemy units fierce, successful blows and inflicted on them a great number of casualties. Our forces captured a number of enemy men and destroyed a great quantity of various weapons and equipment.

2. Our Army helicopter gunships today raided enemy positions and troop concentrations opposite our units' forward positions in the III Army Corps sector and east of Tigris sector. Our helicopters scored effective, accurate hits and inflicted losses in men and equipment. Known enemy losses amounted to 10 boats carrying personnel, and a number of enemy personnel assembly positions. All our helicopters returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Sighting an enemy troop concentration opposite their positions in the central sector of the front, our forward units opened fire killing six, wounding others, and destroying an antiaircraft machine gun and a machine gun emplacement.

4. Two observation posts and one hardware stockpile were destroyed in the Maysan sector.

5. One hardware stockpile was destroyed in the east of Tigris operational area.

6. The criminal Khomeyniite clique used heavy artillery last night and today to shell Basra, Khanaqin, Mandali, and their environs. The shelling martyred 4 civilians, wounded 18, and damaged 3 houses and 2 civilians cars in Basra; destroyed 1 house and damaged 3 houses and a secondary school in Khanaqin; and damaged a number of civilian establishments and property in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 8 March 1984

INA: Tunisia Supports Call for Conference

JN081828 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1804 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis, 8 Mar (INA) — Tunisia has officially agreed to attend an emergency conference of Arab foreign ministers that Iraq has called and which will convene in Baghdad on 13 March. This came during a meeting held in Tunis today between Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi and the Iraqi ambassador in Tunis.

The Tunisian foreign minister approved Iraq's call for this conference in order to discuss the serious situation that has developed as a result of the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war.

QNA: Iraqi Commander on Latest Iranian Offensive

GF090918 Doha QNA in Arabic 0815 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, 9 Mar (QNA) — Major General Hisham Sabah al-Fakhri, commander of the Iraqi forces east of the Tigris, has said that Iran's plan was to occupy the Basra-Al-'Amarah road and then advance westward to the Kuwaiti border.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti paper *AL-ANBA'* published today the Iraqi commander once again denied that the Iraqi forces used chemical weapons in their counteroffensive against the Iranian forces. He asserted that Iraqi territory [occupied by Iran in the recent offensive] has been liberated with the exception of the island of Majnun, which should be considered to have fallen in Iraqi hands from the military view. He said that Iranian forces on the island are being crushed and added that this operation will not last long.

Arab League Informs Arabs of Iraqi Memorandum

JN081314 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis, 8 Mar (INA) — The INA correspondent has learned that the Arab League General Secretariat this morning informed the Arab countries of the text of the memorandum Iraq presented yesterday, calling for an emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers in Baghdad on the 13th of this month.

The Arab League sources told the correspondent that the Arab League will adopt the necessary measures for the convocation of this meeting as soon as it receives the Arab countries' replies to the Iraqi memorandum.

Yesterday, Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, sent a letter to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, informing him of Iraq's call for this meeting and indicating that it is aimed at dealing with the grave situation threatening the entire Arab region in light of the exacerbating Iranian aggression against Iraq.

INA: Arab Front Hails Iraq's Victories

JN081809 Bahdad INA in Arabic 1704 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Basra, 8 Mar (INA) — The Arab front for the liberation of Ahvaz has hailed Iraq's victories over the Iranian forces east of Basra and east of Tigris. In a cable to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, the front stressed that the heroic epics have proven Iraq's capability of teaching the enemy the lessons it deserves and of foiling the Khomeyniite dreams of occupying the Arab land.

Lloyd's Says British Tanker Destroyed in Gulf
JN071901 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] London, 7 Mar (INA) — Informed sources at the British Lloyd's Insurance Company have said that the British tanker *Charming* was destroyed by Iraqi warplanes in the northeastern Arab Gulf last week. In a statement to an INA correspondent today, the sources said that the *Charming*, which has a load capacity of 19,210 tons, was in a group of ships near the Bandar-e Khomeyni port when an Iraqi missile hit it.

On another development, (?Olis) International Company Limited, which is in charge of reserving tankers to other companies, affirmed that the British tanker received a direct hit from an Iraqi missile. An Iranian ship that tried to rescue the tanker was also hit by an Iraqi missile near the Bandar-e Khomeyni port.

Iraq announced on 1 March 1984 that its forces destroyed seven naval targets in the Arab Gulf waters near the Bandar-e Khomeyni port.

PRC President Makes Statement on Arrival

JN081715 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Amman — PRC President Li Xiannian and his wife arrived in Amman this afternoon on a 6-day official visit to Jordan at the invitation of His Majesty King Husayn. Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur received the PRC president and his wife the moment they disembarked from the plane. A 21-gun salute was fired in honor of Jordan's great guest. Those attending the reception at the airport were His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Her Highness Princess Sarvath, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the court minister, the chief chamberlain, the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the Jordanian ambassador in Beijing, the PRC ambassador in Amman, and their wives.

King Husayn accompanied the PRC president to the platform of honor where both the PRC and Jordanian national athems were played. The two leaders inspected the guards of honor, who reprsent the various corps of the Jordanian Armed Forces. Then, the guest shook hands with those who came to receive him: the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the deputy prime minister and minister of interior, the ministers, the dean of the diplomatic corps in Amman, high-ranking civilian and military officials, and the staff of the PRC embassy in Amman.

After a short recess at the royal pavilion, the PRC leader and his wife, accompanied by the king and the queen, left for the guest palace through streets decorated with both the Jordanian and PRC flags and placards of welcome which voiced praise of the close relations between the two countries.

Official talks between the two leaders will begin at the Royal Hashemite Court tomorrow, Friday. The talks will deal with bilateral relations and international issues which concern both countries, foremost of which is the Middle East problem. A full program has been prepared for the great guest through which he will become acquainted with Jordan's cultural, historic, and tourist features. A mission of honor led by Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah will accompany the guest president during his visit to Jordan.

The PRC president's delegation includes a number of PRC officials, among whom are the vice premier of the State Council, the deputy minister of foreign affairs, the deputy minister of foreign economic relations and trade, and the deputy minister of public security.

The PRC president expressed delight over his visit to Jordan at King Husayn's invitation and said in a press statement: On behalf of myself and the PRC people, I extend warmest greetings and wishes to Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur and to the friendly Jordanian people. He added that the PRC and Jordan are bound with excellent relations, reiterating that past years witnessed increasing and developing cooperation between the two countries based on the principle of mutual respect of sovereignty, safety of territories, nonaggression, nonintervention in domestic affairs, equality, mmutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence.

The PRC president noted that the development of friendly elations between the two countries conforms with the interests of both the Jordanian and the PRC peoples and helps to strengthen solidarity and cooperation between the PRC people and the Arab peoples. He said that his visit to Jordan takes place out of a desire to increase mutual understanding and expertise, deepen friendship, and upgrade cooperation between the two countries. He added that he is looking forward to holding talks with the king on bilateral relations and international issues of concern to both states.

King, President Exchange Gifts

JN081901 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur received at An-Nadwah Palace this evening PRC President Li Xiannian and his wife. During the meeting, they exchanged cordial talk and discussed the ties of friendship between the Jordanian and the PRC peoples.

The king and the queen exchanged sourvenir presents with their guests on the occasion of their visit to Jordan. The PRC ambassador in Amman and his wife attended the meeting.

Husayn, Li Xiannian Banquet Speeches

JN082309 Amman Television Service in Arabic 2103 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that Jordan, which received and is still receiving the evil and direct consequences of Israel's aggressive policy against Palestine and its people, will not relinquish its pan-Arab responsibility or the historical, cultural, economic, and political ties that link it to Palestine's land and people. This came in the speech the King delivered at the dinner banquet which he and Queen Nur gave at the Sports City this evening in honor of PRC President Li Xiannian and hsi wife Lin Jiamei. The following is the text of the king's speech:

[Begin recording][Husayn] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellency President Li Xiannian: I am greatly delighted to welcome you here in Amman in my name and on behalf of the people and Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Queen Nur, who shares with me this feeling, also shares with me the warm welcoming of your wife. It is a good occasion that your official visit will allow us to pay tribute to the friendly PRC people through Your Excellency. We exchange with you feelings of friendship and cordiality, recalling with high appreciation and faithfulness the great generosity that you extended to me and Queen Nur durimg my visit to your great country in September 1983.

As Jordan is proud of your presence as an honored guest in its land, it will always remember this distinguished day with the deepest feelings of pride because it records in history the first visit ever made by a PRC president to Jordan. We are confident, Your Excellency, that you and your delegation will stay among friends who harbor respect, love, and appreciation for your country and for the noblity that you represent, which is emodied in the values

and principles on whose basis you adopt your policies and establish your relations with the world countries and peoples, and which make you bear the objectives and aspirations that those in the Third World countries bear.

As there is a big difference between our two countries, with respect to area, population, and resources, and as the distances are long and vast between East Asia, where the PRC embraces the Pacific Ocean, and West Asia, where Jordan overlooks Africa, the reality of our two peoples' affiliation to two noble and ancient civilizations that greatly countributed to building human civilization has reduced and diminished these differences and distances and realized our meeting on the same level of understanding, friendship, and cooperation. The development of relations between our two countries during the short period which followed the establishment of diplomatic exchange in 1977 is the best proof of this mutual understanding.

In the economic field, the percentage of trade exchange between our two countries has tangibly increased in a manner that draws satisfaction and affirms the possibility of achieving more progress. The sector of construction also witnessed PRC companies' contributions to implementing a number of vital Jordanian projects.

In the cultural field, exchange visits continued on the artistic and youth levels. A few days ago, the Jordanian people watched on playgrounds and through television friendly matches between Jordanian and PRC sport teams. Similarly, the Jordanian people enjoyed a few months ago the magnificent performance by the PRC artistic group which participated in the activities at the annual Jerash festival along with national Jordanian groups and other friendly groups. Thus, we confirm the sound trend that we have adopted in order to strengthen the ties of cooperation between our two countries and to develop our bilateral relations on the basis of mutual interests and exchanged respect, regardless of the difference in our social systems.

Your Excellency, our affiliation with the economic south in the last quarter of the 20th century places us on another important level of conformity regarding our trends and coordination in our march and urges us to proceed with the rest of the world countries in developing a world economic system that ensures economic and social balance between the countries of the north and those of the south and which contributes to strengthening international efforts to entrench the sound basis for world peace and stability and welfare of the human being.

Stemming from this humanitarian consideration, we add our voice to that of all those who call for stopping the nuclear arms race so that the world's resources and energies will be employed in various constructive fields that serve the cause of human existence and progress.

Mr President, Jordan, which is proud of its historical struggle for the Arab nation's independence and of its Arab identity, is still struggling, along with the Arab nation's people, to entrench the pillars of this independence and preserve and deepen this identity. Based on this consideration, which governs its policies, Jordan appreciates your country's principled stand against all forms of aggression and all trends of hegemony wherever they may be. Based on these facts, Jordan adheres to the right of self-determination for all peoples, including the peoples of Palestine, Namibia, Kampuchea, and Afghanistan. Jordan is also working along with all peace-loving world states and peoples to end all sorts of colonialism and aggression and the occupation of the land of others by force regardless of the pretexts of the aggressors.

Your visit to Jordan comes at a time in which the hotbeds of tension in this world are multiplying. Not a single continent is free from these tensions, whether the problems begin in these continents or whether they are affected by these problems because of their proximity to the hotbeds of tension. Problems are rife in Southeast Asia, in the Middle East, in Europe, in Central America, and in Africa. This proves beyond doubt that world peace is threatened and that to protect this peace all states in the world must cooperate to end disputes by peaceful means and on the basis of the principle of security for nations and justice for peoples.

The Middle East problem is no exception. The Palestinian problem stands among the most serious international crises. The need to solve it is most urgent due to humanitarian as well as moral reasons and because of factors of strategy and interests. The longer a solution for this problem, which is the crux of the Middle East crisis — a solution based on international charters and conventions and on right and justice — is delayed, the more complicatedthe problem becomes, not only with regard to the peoples of the region, but also in regard to other peoples of the world. There are possibilities of world polarization inherent in this problem and threats of armed confrontations that this problem will create in a region which represents a field of sharp international competition.

Two months from now, 17 years will have passed since Israel occupied the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights. The world continues to stand impotent and unable to implement its resolutions which have been adopted by international organizations since the Israeli aggression in June 1967. This impotency is not the result of a lack of will, but of determination. This impotency awakened a desire for expansion and enlargement in the Israeli leadership — an expansion of which the Zionists thought 3 centuries ago. Israel stepped up its arrogance and intransigence and hampered all peace efforts by exploiting the time element to change the realities on the land and by applying the harshest and most viscious forms of systematic pressure on the Palestinian people with the aim of uprooting them from their homeland and forcing them to emigrate in order to seek security and the means of life.

Israel was particularly encouraged to pursue this policy by the hesitation of the United States in carrying out its duties as a superpower that has special, universal responsibilities, and as a nation that has a clear interest in firmly working to realize a just peace. Instead, the United States has so far been adhering to the role of a watchful mediator. It has preserved, or rather expanded, its friendship with Israel, which exploited this special relationship in building its military power by claiming that it needs this power to protect its security while in fact it is employing this power to protect its illegitimate gains and spoils. Israel's arrogance, which results from its military superiority, has reached such a great extent that it is now trying to separate the Palestinian people from

their Palestinian land by claiming that the problem is an issue of people and not of land.

Your Excellency, Jordan, which received and is still receiving the evil and direct consequnces of Israel's aggressive policy against Palestine and its people, will not relinquish either its pan-Arab responsibilities or the historical, cultural, economic, and political ties that link it to Palestine's land and people. It is still calling and working to realize a peaceful settlement based on the principles of UN Security Council Resolution 242 and other international resolutions that affirm the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. Hence, Jordan is working with th PLO to crystalize a practical formula that will enjoy Arab and international support. This formula will enable both Jordan and the PLO to move on the international level in order to ensure that the international community, including the big powers, carries out its responsibilities in solving the Arab-Israeli dispute — something which is cherished by all. Jordan with all its Arab brothers, who greatly value your country's firm and committed stand on the side of the Palestinian people and Arab rights, are confident of your sincere determination and ability to contribute to any international effort that aims at achieving a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

Mr President, the Israeli aggression, as you know, was not waged not only against Palestine and its people, but extended to another Arab country, Lebanon, because of the failure to curb this aggression. Since Israel's invasion of Lebanon in June 1982, the Lebanese crisis has been building and expanding tragically in all aspects of the Lebanese people's life, structure, and land. The killing, expulsion, and destruction have become an integral part of Lebanon, and the division and discord have become the characteristics of its existence.

Jordan adopted a clear-cut stand from the beginnning of the Lebanese crisis, based on the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and the holding of an enlarged national reconciliation among all Lebanese factions to ensure the unity of the Lebanese people and assert their sovereignty over all their soil. But once again, we witness the same failure in our region, represented in the superpowers' hesitation to take strict measures that are necessary and required from them in order to deter the aggressor so as to safeguard stability and maintain peace. We also affirm that the failure of the sides involved in the Lebanese crisis in dealing with the problem with strictness and true determination does not reflect its devastating results on Lebanon only, but also on the Palestine question, which Israel is endeavoring to cover up in order to gain time for creating new realities that conform with its aggressive and expansionist planning.

Your Excellency, concerning the Iraqi-Iranian war, it is the third tense area that is expanding in our region and that will endanger world economy and peace if it is not halted. Yet, the stand of the world majority toward this war has been closer to a worried observer than that of a concerned and able party. Once again, we witness, amid this indifferent stand, a state of hesitation in taking strict measures. This encoruages the Iranian aggressors to pursue their obstinacy and aggression, unconcerned with the killing and destruction this war will cause and the bitterness and grudges it will precipitate.

Iraq has responded positively, since the beginning of war, to all calls for peace and mediation efforts. It expressed several times its good intentions and real desire for ending the war peacefully, but all these calls and efforts were met with more Iranian instransigence, obstinacy, and boasting of aggressive intentions.

Jordan stood on Iraq's side because Iraq practiced its right to defend itself against Iran's interference in its domestic affairs. Jordan is supporting Iraq now because it truthfully responded to all peace efforts, and also because it is still adhering to the principle of solving the problem peacefully. Jordan will continue to support Iraq until peace is achieved between the two Muslim countries on the basis of righteousness, neighborliness, and noninterference in each other's domestic affairs.

Peace, security, and stability in the Gulf is an integral part of peace and stability in the world. It is time for responsible international action to curb the irresponsible Iranian position and help both sides to sit at the negotiating table to end this destructive war.

Mr President, despite this, there is a bright side. This is represented in the peoples' desire for peace and their adherence to their right to freedom and progress. This fact will always give us hope that injustice will be removed and that aggression will be defeated. Your country, Mr President, stands as a living model of this hope and these principles on which our two peoples have met and on whose basis they made achievements and accomplishments. Based on these principles, our two peoples, along with the rest of the world, will work to establish a secure word where love, prosperity, and peace will prevail.

I welcome you again. I welcome your esteemed wife and your delegation. In my name, and on behalf of the people and Government of Jordan, I greet the friendly Chinese people. I wish them progress and prosperity under your leadership. Long live Jordanian-Chinese friendship! Peace and blessings of God be upon you. [end recording]

Answering his majesty's speech, President Li Xiannian gave a speech in which he praised His Majesty King Husayn's sincere efforts in supporting the just struggle of the Palestinian people and in promoting Arab solidarity. The president pointed out that Israel's intransigence, its aggressive, expansionist policy, and its practices that are contrary to the trend of history increase the tension in the Middle East and obstruct realization of a just, permanent solution to the region's problems.

He affirmed that the Chinese Government and people deeply sympathize with the Palestinian people and firmly support the Arab peoples' struggle and the Palestinians' right to regain their usurped land and national rights. The president said: Any measure that Israel takes in changing the demographic or legal construction of the West Bank will be considered illegal and null and void. He affirmed that peace in the region can be realized through Israel's withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967 and recognition of Palestinian rights.

The PRC president said that this is his first visit to the Middle East and the Arab countries. He said he will learn more about the Arab nation's struggle to restore its rights. He said: We

value His Majesty King Husayn's positive efforts in supporting the just struggle of the Palestinian people and in backing Arab solidarity. He said that unity leads to stability while fragmentation leads to danger. He expressed his confidence that the Arab nation, including the Palestinian people, can strengthen their solidarity and persevere in their struggle.

He referred to Jordanian-Chinese relations and said: We appreciate Jordan's interest in developing relations of cooperation and friendship with China because His Majesty King Husayn visited China twice in order to increase mutual understanding and strengthen friendship between the Jordanian and Chinese peoples. He affirmed that developing relations of cooperation with Jordan and the Arab states is a firm policy of the Chinese Government which serves theirjoint interest in bolstering solidarity among the Third World states and protecting world peace.

The dinner banquet was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Princess Tharwat, and Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat and his wife. It was also attended by the speaker of the House of Representatives; the president of the Senate; former prime ministers; the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; the court minister, who is chief of the mission of honor that will accompany the great guest; the chief chamberlain; the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; the deputy prime minister and interior minister; the chief justice; the ministers; senior government and civilian officials; the doyen of the diplomatic orps in Amman; the members of the Chinese delegation; and the ambassadors of the two countries in Amman and Beijing and their wives.

Chinese Coverage

For Chinese coverage of the PRC president's visit to Jordan, see the Middle East and Africa section of the 9 March China *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Government Supports Iraq's Call For meeting

JN081635 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 Gmt 8 Mar 84

[Text] Amman, 8 Mar (PETRA) — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that the Jordanian Government supports Iraq's call for an extraordinary Arab League Council session on the level of foreign ministers. PETRA learned that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cabled Jordan's permanent delegate at the Arab League in Tunis to this effect.

House Condemns Iran, Supports Lebanon

JN081641 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1443 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Amman, 8 Mar (PETRA) — The House of Representatives in a decision issued today condemned Iran's continued aggression against brother Iraq. The decision appealed to the Arab countries to perform their pan-Arab duty by siding with Iraq. The following is the text of the decision:

The Jordanian House of Representatives unanimously decided in its session this morning, 8 March 1984, to condemn Iran's continued aggression against brother Iraq and its massing of forces, as well as its ignoring the calls for peace that Iraq has been making. This Iranian attitude subjects the region to the dangers of expanding the war and intervention by foreign forces. It also subjects the region to superpower conflict and polarization. The House of Representatives also appeals to the Arab countries to perform their pan-Arab duty by siding with Iraq in defending its land and national sovereignty and in seeking a halt to the war and achieving peace.

The House of Representatives issued another decision supporting Lebanon's abrogation of the 17 May agreement and its insistence on safeguarding its unity. The following is the text of the decision:

The Jordanian House of Representatives unanimously decided in its session this morning, 8 March 1984, to support and bless Lebanon's national step by which it abrogated the 17 May agreement with the Zionist enemy — the agreement imposed on Lebanon under the Zionist occupation. On this occasion, the House expresses its support for and delight in Lebanon's insistence on safeguarding its territorial integrity and people's unity and on saving its noble Arab face. The House also praises the Lebanese people's efforts and struggle for their own good and for the honor of the Arab nation.

AFP: Junblatt Leaves Amman for Damascus 8 March

NC081347 Paris AFP in English 1321 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Amman, March 8 (AFP) — Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), left here for Damascus today after a three-day private visit.

Mr. Junblatt said he was to speak to fellow Lebanese opposition members about the next round of the national reconciliation congress, scheduled to start next Monday in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The PSP and the Shi'ite Moslem group Amal are to present a joint set of proposals at the talks, a reliable source said here.

Birri on Airport Reopening, National Dialogue

NC081353 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The patriotic forces took an important initiative today to open the door for the national dialogue when they decided to open the airport as of this afternoon. Amal leader Nabih Birri made the following statement: On behalf of the patriotic forces and as the National Dialogue Conference is drawing near, we declare unilaterally and out of good will that Beirut airport will be open as of this afternoon.

It is known that both the airport and the airport road are under the control of the patriotic army, the airport security organ, and the Internal Security Forces. We have arranged this matter with the authorities, those concerned, and the Middle East Airlines Board of Directors.

Asked about broadening the National Dialogue Conference, Birri said: We are in favor of such broadening. The conference should include the Greek Orthodox, Catholic, and Armenian communities. As I said yesterday, this conference aims at establishing a new Lebanon and it should not exclude any basic and effective parties in this country. One cannot argue against this by saying that the conference can be delayed as a result. As it is, every party can assign its representative within 24 hours.

Answering a question on the cease-fire, Birri said we are the side which unilaterally announced the cease-fire. We have laid more stress on this cease-fire following the [17 May] agreement abrogation. Birri added: I think we show a firm commitment on this matter. It remains to be seen if the other side follows our example.

Answering a final question, Birri said it is beyond doubt that Amin al-Jumayyil will be a party to the dialogue in the coming conference.

Lebanese Forces Set Conditions

NC081826 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Sources of the Lebanese Forces have stated that they will oppose the reopening the airport unless firm guarantees are given for the safety of passengers, airport employees, and aircraft. The same sources said that Christians living in the eastern parts will fear going to the airport if security there is carried out by undisciplined militiamen.

An official source in the Lebanese Forces this evening stressed that the Lebanese Forces want the airport to be reopened out of their concern to keep Lebanon open to the world. He called on the Lebanese Government to quickly take measures to reopen the airport. He defined the following conditions to achieve this:

1. Withdrawing gunmen from the airport road and the area surrounding it to the east and west;

2. Removing from the airport building, annex buildings, and airline companies elements stationed there reporting on certain citizens as they travel through the airport;

3. Establishing a new security organ for Beirut International Airport that enjoys the confidence of all parties in order to ensure the safety of all passengers;

4. Handing over the road from the museum up to At-Tayyunah and the airport to Lebanese Army units that belong only to the Army Command in the Defense Ministry in Al-Yarzi.

Responding to a question, an official source in the Lebanese Forces said that the Lebanese Forces do not object in principle to deploying UN forces on the airport road if they enjoy deterrent powers and have orders to quickly intervene to prevent aggression upon any citizen. He said, however, that this security formula did not prove effective or successful in other areas, referring to the UN emergency force and the Multinational Force in Beirut. He further said that it is inconceivable to accept the reopening of the airport unless these security necessities are ensured. These needs have nothing to do with political issues. The reopening of the airport without ensuring these security needs will become a trap to hold and kidnap citizens. He warned against taking unilateral steps that may cause setbacks that the country does not need.

Paper Alleges Plot to Kill Birri, Junblatt

NC091133 Paris AFP in English 1125 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Beirut, March 9 (AFP) — Swiss authorities have uncovered a plot to assassinate Lebanon's two main opposition leaders when they attend the National Reconciliation Conference in Lausanne, an opposition newspaper claimed here today, but the report was disputed in Switzerland. According to the newspaper *AMAL*, the targets were the leader of the Amal Shi'ite Militia, Nabih Birri, and his close ally and the Chief of the Progressive Socialist Party, Walid Junblatt. The intention was to sabotage the conference, which resumes on Monday, and bring about a military escalation in Lebanon, it said.

It said three men had been arrested and charged with conspiring to murder, adding that they had already otained visas for Switzerland.

Sources close to the Amal Movement refused to confirm the arrests, but said the plot had been uncovered by the Swiss authorities, who had alerted security forces here. Measures had been taken to foil the plot and ensure the success of the conference, they said.

(Meanwhile in Geneva Swiss police said they had no knowledge of a plot to assassinate the two leaders.

(A spokesman said he knew nothing about the reports in the Lebanese press and stressed that nobody had been arrested.)

RFL: Libyan Forces Placed Under Al-Jumayyil

NC082107 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Lebanese authorities have been advised of the Libyan position conveyed by Muhammad al-Fayturi, official in charge of Libyan interests in Beirut. This position expresses surprise at

the continued severance of diplomatic relations and places Libyan forces in Lebanon under President Al-Jumayyil, as Syrian deterrent forces had been in the past.

An official diplomatic source told Radio Free Lebanon tonight that a position on this issue requires a decision by the cabinet.

Chamber of Deputies Adjourns Without Quorum
NC081326 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies session which was to be held this morning was not held because of a lack of a quorum. Only 27 deputies arrived at Mansur Palace in addition to Ministers Baha' ad-Din al-Bisat, 'Isam Khuri, Roger Shaykhani, and Pierre al-Khuri.

Speaker Kamil al-As'ad adjourned the session at 1200. The deputies then held consultations. The scheduled session was devoted to discussing the joint parliamentary committees' recommendation regarding the formation of a parliamentary committee to investigate the recent security incidents.

In a statement made in this respect, Speaker al-As'ad said: It is regrettable that the session was not held because the Chamber was supposed to respond to the committees' unanimous recommendation for an investigation. It is the Chamber's first duty to investigate the military deterioration and practices that took place in the field, which raised questions and astonishment. The Chamber should determine responsibility, be it at the military or political level, in order to safeguard the dignity of the military establishment and of the state as a whole. The absence of some deputies might be for specific reasons or for fear of specific dangers. Whatever these dangers may be, I believe that holding the session would have been preferable at the national level and at the level of national responsibility which the Chamber of Deputies assumes.

Asked whether a new date has been fixed for the next session, Speaker al-As'ad said: I cannot set a new date for the same subject because absenteeism indicates a desire not to respond to the committees' recommendation.

Speaker Comments on Cancellation of 17 May Accord
NC081411 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Speaker Kamil al-As'ad today said that the cancellation of the 17 May accord without any alternative will lead to the annihilation of the existence and united entity of Lebanon. He added: The cancellation of the accord is tantamount not to the burial of a corpse but to the burial of a homeland. He said: Israel is now capable of remaining in the south without any obstruction. He added: Our stand on the second Dialogue Conference and our evaluation of its results depend on the degree of priority that is given to the issue of liberation.

Karami Seen as Likely Prime Minister Designate
NC090704 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0645 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Radio Free Lebanon has learned that it is most likely that a government will be formed under [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami and that an understanding was reached on this question at the Lebanese-Syrian summit. This understanding was confirmed at the Smar Jubayl meeting [among Al-Jumayyil, Franjiyah, and Karami]. The statements made by Karami himself are also an indication of this.

It is known that Karami was behind the cabinet crisis during the presidency of Charles Hilu. One of the results of this crisis was the Cairo Agreement [between the Lebanese Government and the Palestinians]. Karami was also the cause for the disintegration of the Lebanese Army in 1976.

Recently Opened Party Offices To Be Closed
NC081808 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1705 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The Internal Security Forces will, as of 1000 on 9 March, implement measures leading to the closure of all party offices established after 6 February. This step follows the completion of contacts with all nationalist and Islamic forces. This is also at the initiative and with the blessings of His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the Lebanese Republic. The Security Forces hope all concerned will comply with these measures and will help them safeguard the peace and security of citizens.

Christian Leaders Oppose Constitutional Changes
NC081325 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1245 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil told Radio Free Lebanon today that all the statements issued about a cease-fire are useless. The 17 May agreement was abrogated because it could not bring about the withdrawal of the occupiers from Lebanon. If Syria persists in its refusal to leave Lebanon, we shall, on the other hand, reject the withdrawal of Israel, because no one can guarantee for us the Syrians will withdrawal from Lebanese territory in the future. Israel's continued presence in Lebanon will make Syria seriously reconsider its presence in Lebanon.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil rejected the principle of discussing the subject of amending the Constitution while military escalation is continuing because this subject is extremely serious. He said: We are prepared to discuss the subject when the country becomes free from all the occupations, although this Constitution is the best, in his opinion.

[Former] President Camille Sham'un told our radio today that the Lausanne conference deals with internal constitutional matters and no one interested in it should boycott it; this conference has nothing to do with external issues. President Sham'un added that we discussed this subject a great deal in our previous

meetings and it was agreed that all should go to Switzerland and attend the second dialogue session because the outcome of this session could be very important.

Asked about the question of amending the Constitution, President Sham'un said: We are in principle against any amendment of the Constitution, particularly against any amendment to the powers of the president of the republic and against the formation of any bodies other than the Chamber of Deputies.

Lebanese Forces Unconcerned About Conference

NC081445 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] An official source at the Lebanese Forces Command has explained that the Lebanese Forces are not concerned with the convening of the [National Dialogue] Conference, the negotiations during it, or its results because the Lausanne book can be judged by its title. The source denied that a meeting has been held among the Phalange Party, the National Liberal Party, the [Christian] leagues, the monastic orders, and the Lebanese Forces in order to chart a unified working paper for the Lausanne conference.

Christian Leagues Union Denounces Cancellation

NC081530 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Following a meeting today chaired by lawyer Shakir Abu Sulayman, the Christian Leagues Union requested that the Dialogue [Conference] include a stipulation putting an end to political and military pressures in the Lebanese arena. The union denounced the cancellation of the 17 May accord. The union said that the cancellation has robbed Lebanon of the freedom of decisionmaking and weakened confidence in Lebanon and its establishments.

Political Source on Opposition Working Paper

NC081831 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] A political source emphasized today that the patriotic working paper that is to be debated in Damascus on Saturday will put things in their proper perspective. It will also present radical and realistic reforms that should spare the country a reoccurrence of political and military shocks.

In addition, the working paper will present priority points calling for judging the men in government, foremost of whom is the top official, who practiced sectarianism during his rule, issued Phalangist decrees, displaced citizens, and committed civilian massacres.

The source added that it is not permissible to exonerate a ruler who has killed the people, fragmented the Army, and relied on foreigners to establish Phalangist principles and toy with the country's destiny.

PSP Radio on Documentation for Lausanne Meeting

NC090928 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] The Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] forces, the Amal Movement, and the nationalist forces continue to abide by the cease-fire agreement despite provocations on the part of Amin al-Jumayyil's Army and the Phalangist gangs against Iqlim al-Kharrub, nationalist Beirut, and the southern suburb.

In another development, the National Salvation Front and the Amal Movement will attend the Lausanne conference, slated for Monday. They will carry documents that show the massacres and ruination that the factional regime of Amin al-Jumayyil and the Phalangist gangs have committed in the southern suburb, nationalist Beirut, and the mountain. They will also take with them documents on political and social reforms as well as documents that will rescue Lebanon from Phalangist hegemony and U.S. and Israeli influence and transform it from the one-party factional system into an independent Arab state of democracy and liberty.

Beirut Radio Editor Killed by Sniper Fire

NC091113 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Information Ministry, the NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY, and the Lebanese Editors Association mourn with sorrow martyr Muhammad Humani, alias Abu Shawqi. He was the latest member of the press to join the martyrs who fell for the sake of Lebanon. While on his way this morning to the Information Ministry building, where he worked as a Radio Lebanon newscast editor, when he was hit by treacherous sniper fire in the Graham gas station area in Beirut, where he had lived temporarily since leaving his home in Beirut's southern suburb.

Communist Party Official on U.S. Moves, Agreement

AU071526 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 5 Mar 84 p 6

[Interview with Nadim 'Abd as-Samad, secretary and member of Lebanese Communist Party Central Committee Politburo, by *RUDE PRAVO* staff journalist Stanislav Stepanek: "Getting Rid of White House Interference"]

[Text] Nadim 'Abd as-Samad, secretary and member of the Politburo of the Lebanese Communist Party Central Committee, gave an interview to *RUDE PRAVO* during his stay in Czechoslovakia.

[Stepanek] How do you assess the regrouping of the majority of American detachments from Beirut aboard vessels operating off the Lebanese coast?

[As-Samad] We regard the evacuation of the American detachment as a great victory for the patriotic forces. The Americans very quickly shed the peace banner with which they came allegedly to defend civilians — the Lebanese and Palestinians — and transformed themselves into a power which actively joined in

combat on the side of fascist forces. Therefore, what is involved here is an aggressive occupation force. For a long time now we have regarded the departure of the American detachment as the primary task, which is in the interest of Lebanese independence and a fundamental prerequisite for settling the Lebanese crisis. The United States was trying to force upon us a solution that would suit its interests and its attempts at hegemony, which would enable it to go over to a new offensive against the Palestinian people, against Syria, and to establish rule over the entire region.

When the press writes a lot about American defeat, my opinion is that it does so rightly. After all, the Americans had to leave without succeeding with the Al-Jumayyil regime, without having liquidated the national movement, and even in an atmosphere where the necessity of abrogating of the accord with Israel was recognized — an accord that was the main fruit of Reagan's and Shultz' policy in the region.

The fact that we succeeded in dealing the Americans a heavy blow is immensely important, especially as it follows the Israeli aggression, which was regarded as decisive in the endeavor to destroy the Lebanese national movement and which was supposed to create conditions for the victory of the United States in the region. The Americans not only did not achieve that victory, but on the contrary, they sufferred a defeat.

It is obvious that this does not constitute a definitive victory. For us it is only one stage in the struggle against American imperialism. Moreover, the United States has many other means which it, no doubt, will want to make use of through domestic reactionary forces, through Arab reaction, with the help of Israel.

[Stepanek] Does that mean that the United States has not at all abandoned its hegemonist interests in the region?

[As-Samad] Precisely. The Americans remain in Lebanese territorial waters and continue shelling our cities and villages. Therefore, we agree with the USSR stance in the Security Council, where it presses for the Americans to leave our territorial waters and guarantee that they will intervene no more in Lebanon. Without achieving these guarantees, the Americans could land again in Lebanon any time they want to.

[Stepanek] What, in the view of the Lebanese Communist Party, are the fundamental prerequisites for settling the Lebanese crisis?

[As-Samad] Above all, the definitive departure of the Americans. I stress: definitive. Further, the abrogation of the Israeli-Lebanese accord, the departure of the Israeli occupation detachments from the country, and the establishment of Lebanese sovereignty over the entire territory and, finally, the setting up of a government of national agreement, which could conduct talks with individual parties taking part in the conflict. The talks should result in the reform of the Constitution and of the political system, making such changes in the social sphere that would lead to ensuring stability, to the establishment of and respect for democracy. On this basis a new Lebanon can be created.

However, the stance of the Phalange Party is a problem. It is pro-Israel, pro-American, and during the civil war it tried with all means and with foreign help to destroy the Lebanese national movement. It invited Israel to aggression in Lebanon, it was helping Israel blockade Beirut, it turned to the Americans for help, and it wanted to profit from their military support. Therefore, it is very difficult to come to an agreement with such a party. It is not a party of compromise or national agreement. For the duration of the civil war we were striving for national agreement, and the Phalangists always were the main obstacles to it.

[Stepanek] Do you think Lebanon itself is strong enough to settle the crisis?

[As-Samad] To put it simply, I think Lebanon has the means to settle the crisis without participation from abroad. The correlation of forces within the country is to the advantage of the national movement. We have the means to arrive at a patriotic and democratic solution of the Lebanese crisis, beginning with abolishing the interdenominational system, establishing democracy, and ending with ensuring unity and resolving social and economic problems.

Of course, as you know, in Lebanon there are several forces active at present. Within this context we cannot pretend that we can settle the crisis without any role of an international force or negotiations. We are not against UN detachments coming to Beirut. I stress that this applies to Beirut only! These detachments could replace the French and American troops — their interference, be it from the land or the sea, must end — and, second, they could help to establish a cease-fire and pacify the situation so that a national dialogue can begin. However, one has to realize that it must be the Lebanese and not international forces who will be resolving the crisis.

[Stepanek] Thanks for the interview.

RFL: Sources Call Al-Asad's Health Poor

NC091307 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1245 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Reports from Damascus say that official announcement of the appointment of three Syrian vice presidents — 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Rif'at al-Asad, and Zuhayr Mashriqah — will take place simultaneously with the formation of the new Cabinet. The Cabient is not likely to include 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam as foreign minister.

It has been noticed that that President al-Asad was absent from the official rally held yesterday on the occasion marking the Ba'th Party's assumption of power. Mashariqah deputized for Al-Asad at the rally.

Arab sources in Damascus say that Rif'at al-Asad, during the Ba'th Party Regional Command meeting yesterday, demanded that he take over national security, including the Syrian Armed Forces, in return for approval of Khaddam's and Ash-Shihabi's assuming sensitive political posts. The sources disclosed that President al-Asad is in bad health.

Al-Kasm Continuing Contacts To Form Cabinet

JN090639 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm is continuing his contacts and consultations to form a new cabinet.

Lebanon's Franjiyah Arrives in Damascus For Talks

NC091223 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Excerpts] [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah arrived in Damascus this afternoon en route to Lausanne to attend the second round of the national dialogue conference. Franjiyah was accorded an official reception by a number of Syrian officials. Franjiyah will hold a series of contacts and meetings with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad prior to his departure for Lausanne.

Prior to his departure from Zgharta, Franjiyah had the following dialogue with our correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] The Lebanese are focusing their attention on the Lausanne conference. What do you expect from this conference?

[Franjiyah] Actually, everyone should focus his attention toward the Lausanne conference. We expect that the intentions that dominated the Geneva conference will be the same in Lausanne. I am very hopeful that everyone will exert efforts in Lausanne so that normal life will return to Lebanon. I am also very hopeful, in view of the intentions of the conferees, that we will restore stability and tranquility to the sons of our people, who have been long afflicted by pain and destruction.

[Reporter] Do you expect any specific events or incidents in the region?

[Franjiyah] As long as the enemy is at our door and as long as the enemy is in our house, everything is expected.

[Reporter] What are the most important aspects of the working paper that you will be submitting to the Lausanne conference?

[Franjiyah] We will submit a group of points. I hope these points will satisfy the Lebanese and will enable him to regain his sovereignty, freedom, and tranquility, as well as those of his sons and grandsons. [end recording]

Lebanese Nationalist Figures Meet in Damascus

JN091251 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — A meeting was held in Damascus before noon today attended by Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party; Nabih Birri,leader of Amal Movement; Rafiq al-Hariri, Saudi mediator; Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt, former Lebanese ministers; and Comrade 'Abdallah al-Amin, regional assistant secretary of the Ba'th Party organization in Lebanon. During the meeting, they discussed the working paper that will be presented to the Lebanese national dialogue conference that will be held in Lausanne, Switzerland next Monday. Furthermore, they took the necessary measures and drew up solutions to stabilize the cease-fire.

KUNA reports 'Secret Visit' by Egypt's Al-Baz to Syria

LD091056 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1003 gmt 9 mar 84

[Text] Beirut, 9 Mar (KUNA) — Arab sources said here today that the Egyptian president's adviser, 'Usamah al-Baz, made a secret visit to Damascus within the framework of contacts between the two countries. Yesterday these sources stated that in light of these contacts, yesterday Egyptian President Husni Mubarak sent a cable of congratulations to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the occasion of the 8 March 1963 revolution. The sources said that following civil and military contacts between the two countries it was decided that the dialogue between them should continue.

Ba'th Official Addresses Women's Congress

JN081921 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1614 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Speech by Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party Regional Command, at the opening session of the Fourth Congress of Syrian General Women Federation held at the conference hall of the General Federation of Trade Unions in Damascus on 8 March 1984, marking the 21st anniversary of the 8 March 1963 revolution — live]

[Excerpts] Comrade sisters, Comrade brothers, brother citizens: The glorious March revolution, which was carried out by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in 1963 and whose 21st anniversary we are celebrating today, was a great historical turning point in the life of our country, the masses of our people, and our Arab nation. Through this revolution, our popular masses were able to wipe out the shame of the secession crime with which the agents and enemies broke up the first attempt at unity between two fraternal countries — Syria and Egypt. After the revolution, the masses proceeded to build their future, raise the pillars of their awakening, achieve their development, create their progress, and take firm steps toward achieving their objectives of unity and socialist reconstruction.

Comrade sisters, your congress is meeting under the slogan of let us work for a qualitative move to develop the woman's active role in the battles of development, reconstruction, and liberation under the leadership of our great party and its secretary general, Comrade Struggler Hafisz al-Asad. The scope for work and other activities are wide open to you. Therefore, let your congress and the discussions that will take place therein, and the resolutions it will produce create an opportunity through which the woman shall affirm her competence, ability, and efficiency in all walks of life and prove that she is the man's partner in everything; working with him hand-in-hand to build modern Syria under Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the republic, who set its foundations and provided the means for its comprehensive mod-

ern reconstruction — economically, politically, socially, and culturally.

After the blessed corrective movement, Syria became a beehive of economic, agricultural, and industrial activity through the implementation of hundreds of projects in agriculture, industry, public services, cultural, higher education, and other fields. All this is being done through the 5-year plans, which are being carried out precisely and which have created a qualitative change in Syria's economic structure. All this is being done for the sake of building a solid material base for steadfastness and confrontation and for achieving a strategic balance, in all its material, manpower, military, and political aspects, between Syria and the Zionist enemy so this country will continue its liberation struggle with resolutions and determination.

On the pan-Arab level, Syria played the leading role in all the unity attempts of the last decade, including the Union of Arab Republics, the unity coordination with Jordan, the National Action Charter with Iraq, and others. This is because revolutionary Ba'thist Syria, the Syria of Hafiz al-Asad, has always sought to achieve the Arab masses' unity aspiration of establishing a unity state between it and any Arab country whose circumstances enable it to conclude such unity so that this unity state would serve as the nucleous for the greater unity state — the hope of Arabs everywhere. If those attempts did not achieve their desired results, it was not because of us, but because of others.

In the field of the struggle to liberate the occupied Arab territories and regain the usurped rights, especially the rights of our Palestinian Arab people to the return, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their land, it is enough to point to the October 1973 liberation war and the Golan and Mount Hermon war, which were fought by our brave Armed Forces and our people's struggler masses under the leadership of comrade leader Hafiz al-Asad.

In the field of confronting the plans of the enemies of the Arab nation, including U.S. imperialist and racist Zionists — those plans by which they seek to dominate the Arab region and subjugate it to imperialist-Zionist influence so as to control its political, economic, military, and cultural resources and to include it in their long-term strategy — Syria led the Arab liberation movement and was the only steadfastness and confrontation bastion and trench in the Arab region that defended the Arab nation's honor, dignity, pride, and rights and confronted all its enemies.

Syria, under leader Al-Asad, also played a major and distinct role in confronting the traitorous Camp David accords, which removed Egypt from the trench of Arab confrontation and placed it in the trench of subservience to imperiaism and Zionism and which removed the Israeli chain around Sinai and placed it around the whole of Egypt.

On the 21st anniversary of the revolution and while our popular masses are celebrating this revolution and all their successes in previous years, Syria, under the leadership of Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad [applause], secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the republic, achieved a great historical victory with Arab and international repercussions and results. This victory is considered one of most important events witnessed by the world in the last 10 years. This victory is the toppling of the U.S.-Israeli agreement of submission which was to be imposed on Lebanon. [applause]

Syria under the leadership of Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad has fought bitter battles against imperialist and Zionist plans which seek to dominate the Arab region, eliminate Arab national existence, and deliver the region to racist Zionism. We all know that the United States put all its weight behind the agreement of submission and imposed it on Lebanon so as to dismember that Arab country and place it under Israeli-U.S. protection. But the steadfastness of the progressive nationalist forces in Lebanon in particular, and the Lebanese masses in general; as well as the firm stand adopted by Syria under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad in rejecting that agreement in its entirety; and Syria's support for the fraternal Lebanese people with all its capabilities against that agreement, have led to the achievement of this great victory. It is a historical victory, not only for Lebanon and Syria, but also for the entire Arab nation and the Arab liberation movement which is led by struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. [applause]

The decisive victory which was achieved by toppling the agreement of submission entails a great historical meaning which will have far-reaching effects in defeating U.S. imperialism and racist Zionism and their plans to dominate the Arab region and control its destinies. It will also have decisive results in blocking the way fo those who are running after the capitulationist solutions and who are looking for crumbs under the feet of the enemies of the Arab nation. This victory is a call to our Arab people in Egypt to continue to intensify their struggle to topple the traitorous Camp David accords and to return Egypt to the trench of Arab confrontation against the Zionist enemy and the other nemeies of the Arab nation.

The toppling of the agreement of submission constitutes a new qualitative phase in the Arab liberation movement's struggle. It is an affirmation that when peoples remain steadfast and adhere to their cause, they can achieve victory regardless of the enormity of the dangers and the power of the hostile forces. The success of our popular masses under the leadership of leader Al-Asad in toppling the agreement of submission is also a call to the Arab nation and the Arab masses to hold tenaciously to their struggle causes and to continue with the pan-Arab option adopted by our great party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. [applause]

On this occasion, I cannot but congratulate our Lebanese brothers on this decisive victory and to assure them that Syria will stand by them and by the national dialogue and will exert every possible effort to achieve national reconciliation in Lebanon and save our Arab people in Lebanon from the woes of civil war. We appeal to all our brothers in Lebanon in all their positions to rise up to the level of the current circumstances in order to save Lebanon.

As for the Palestine question, it is the mother issue. It is the central issue in the struggle of the Arab masses. It is the issue of our party, the masses of our people, and every Syrian citizen. This is because our conflict with the Zionist enemy is one of existence. It is either we in this part of the world, in our land and homes; or

it is the Zionist enemy at the expense of the Arab citizen and Arab territory. Our position on the Palestine question is firm and principled, and our commitment to it is crucial. Our support for the Palestinian people in liberating their land and regaining their rights is absolute and limitless. The Palestine question will remain the focus of the struggle of our masses and Arab nation until justice is done, Arab rights triumph, and Zionist falsehood fails.

Our masses will continue their victorious struggle march with resoluteness and determination under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the republic. They will adhere to the national liberation line and the firm principled stand until all the achievement of all our pan-Arab struggle's objectives of liberating the occupied Arab territories and regaining the usurped rights, especially the Palestinian people's rights to return, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their land. Our popular masses will also confront the plans of the Arab nation's enemies, including U.S. imperialists and racist Zionists, and their plots, depending on their faith in their rights and cause and on the support of our Arab masses everywhere and all the progressive liberation forces in the world — especially the socialist bloc countries headed by the USSR, the loyal friend of the Arab nation and the strong ally of the Arab masses in their just struggle. [applause]

YAR Minister Conveys Salih's Message to Al-Asad

JN080943 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0845 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 8 Mar (SANA) — At 0930 today, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received YAR Health Minister Ahmad Muhammad al-Kibab who conveyed a message from YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to President Hafiz al-Asad. The YAR ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

PDRY Chairman Telephones President al-Asad

JN081933 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad today received a telephone call from 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium. The PDRY chairman congratulated President al-Asad on the abrogation of the 17 May agreement which the United States and Israel attempted to impsoe on fraternal Lebanon. Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad described the abrogation of the agreement as a victory for the Arab nation's cause, and for the Arab and international liberation movement. He also conveyed to President al-Asad the congratulations of the PDRY on the 21st anniversary of the Syrian 8 March revolution, and his best wishes for Syria.

President al-Asad thanked Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad for his congratulations and wishes, stressing concern for the continuation of cooperation between Syria and the PDRY in the interest of the two fraternal countries, their peoples, and the Arab nation.

Papal Envoy Meets Al-Asad 8 March

AU081523 Rome ANSA in English 1515 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] (ANSA) Beirut, March 8 — A papal delegation led by Msgr. Mario Brini was in Damascus today for a meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Brini is the bearer of a message from Pope John Paul II to the Syrian leader. Yesterday, the pontifical emissary met in Beirut with Lebanese President Amin Al-Jumayyil, and also delivered a papal message to him. Brini and al-Jumayyil were said to have exchanged ideas and opinions on the Lebanese crisis. The possibility that the papal envoy may return to Beirut for talks with the Lebanese president has not been ruled out.

Shamir Interviewed on Lebanon, Syria

TA090900 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew
9 Mar 84 Political Supplement pp 1, 2, 18

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Dr Herzl Rosenblum, Noah Moses, Dov Yudkovsky, Moshe Vered, Arye Tzimuqi, and Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat "this week" in the prime minister's office; the prime minister was accompanied by Director General of the Prime Minister's Office Matityahu Shemuelevitz and Communications Advisers Avi Pazner and Yosef Ahime'ir]

[Text] Question: By the nature of things, our first question will refer to the abrogation of the accord with Lebanon. The people of Israel have not yet heard the prime minister's reaction. Furthermore, there is the question of what steps — if at all — are we called upon to take as a consequence of the abrogation?

Answer: The abrogation of the accord relieves us of the commitments we had undertaken as part of the agreement. In the long months of negotiations we conducted, with the Lebanese insisting on every minute point that they thought could be harmful to their sovereignty, we gave up some demands [tevi'ot] pertaining primarily to the security arrangements. From now on these limitations will no longer apply to us.

Question: Such as?

Answer: I would not like to get into detail. Let me just say that this spelled out, among other things, limitations imposed on our patrols of southern Lebanon, the number of soldiers who were allowed to cross the border, and so on. Now we are free of all this. The abrogation of the accord eliminates all hope that in the foreseeable future we might be able to reach security arrangements based on an understanding [haskama] with the Lebanese Government.

Question: What should we do now?

Answer: This means that we must concentrate all our efforts to obtain the necessary security arrangements based on an understanding with local elements, which we areconcentrating all our energy on now.

Question: If you could approach the Lebanese people through our newspaper, what would you tell them?

Answer: Perhaps only this: During the years when we had relations of cooperation and trade with Lebanon, we found many many true friends, and we are deeply apprehensive for their future. We will continue to maintain ties with them and help them to the best of our ability.

Question: What do we know about the Al-Jumayyil-Al-Asad talks in Damascus?

Answer: That the outcome was unambiguous and meant a total capitulation by Al-Jumayyil to Syria, which demanded absolute control. Evidently Al-Asad agreed to hold some semblance of talks between Lebanon and Israel as part of an armistice committee. Obviously we would never dream of conducting such talks. We will not accept this under any circumstances. There is fear that Syria will take over the Lebanese Army and that reprisal missions would be undertaken against the Lebanese officers who cooperated with Israel. Al-Asad and his lackeys explicitly threatened Al-Jumayyil in the course of the discussions in Damascus. Each time Al-Jumayyil countered Al-Asad's demands, Khaddam (the Syrian foreign minister) repeatedly told him: If you do not agree, we will be in your palace in B'abda in 1 hour, and also in your home village, Bikfayya. This, then was the dilemma with which Al-Jumayyil was presented: either to accept total submission or give up his status as president. It was agreed in Damascus to hold a reconcilation conference, but its results have not yet been determined, in other words — what the Shi'ites or the Druze — who fought against Al-Jumayyil — will get. But this, apparently, interested Al-Jumayyil far less. For him what is most important is to remain president.

Question: Did we meet with Al-Jumayyil in Rhodes after his talks in Damascus?

Answer: No.

Question: Did he ask to meet with you?

Answer: No, he did not not. One must also remember that the assessment has always been that, contrary to his brother Bashir, Amin Al-Jumayyil has always leaned more toward the Syrian-Arab line. He even had good friends among the PLO leadership.

Question: Do the other Christian clans still want to continue the coopeeration with us?

Answer: There are broad Christian circles, such as the Camille Sham'un family and others, who very much want to pursue the ties with us, and they say so out in the open. This is not to say that some of them who want to have ties with us do not want ties with Syria at the same time. Everything is possible in Lebanon.

Question: Were Bashir al-Jumayyil's views different from Amin's?

Answer: He was totally different. Bashir was the younger brother, and contrary to what you would normally expect, he was first elected the commander of the Phalangists, the leaders of the Christians, and then president. The entire Christian public — but not only the Christians — regarded him as the leader who will be able to guarantee Lebanon's integrity and independence. Some say that Amin, who was hurt, thought that Bashir got to wherever he got to with Israel's help, as though because of Israel, Bashir snatched the ascendancy from him.

Question: Following the abrogation of the accord, what can be said in support of the war in Lebanon?

Answer: Look, first of all we were forced to launch the war in light of the situation that prevaiiled prior to June 1982: The large concentration of terrorists that grew larger along Israel's border was directed against Israel with 500 artillery barrels. There was no other choice but to remove them from the border to prevent our population from deserting the north. We had to enter Lebanon, clear the area, and destroy them. There was no

other way. Some people could say today that the terrorists could have changed, or that perhaps the war could have somehow been shortened, but the operation itself was an absolute must, and it achieved its goal. Today the Galilee is peaceful, the inhabitants can sleep at night, people go to work, children go to school, and no one is thinking of leaving. This objective was obtained. Now there are also those who tell us: We failed to establish a central government in Lebanon; you were unable to free the Lebanese of the dominant Syrian influence. It is true that by entering Lebanon and removing the terrorists as well as dealing a blow to Syria we gave Lebanon the opportunity to free itself of the Palestinian conquest that was encumbering it greatly, and from Syrian domination. We gave them the chance, but they missed it and never pursued it to the end. We cannot do what they were supposed to do, either Israel or the United States, but they could do it. I repeat: The primary goal of the war — defense, security — was achieved. now it is necessary to fortify and bolster it, and this is what we are doing.

Question: Mr Prime Minister, the entire population — including people from all shades of the public spectrum — are asking: What are we waiting for before we withdraw from southern Lebanon? Some senior military figures also maintain that we can pull back.

Answer: There are different suggestions in the army, and different plans, and they are working on it constantly. The problem is not whether to remain in Sidon or not; the problem is the security arrangements. We want security arrangements that will guarantee peace for the Galilee, and this should be responded to fully. So there may be different views, but people are working on it. We are not stalling for time. Once the plans are sufficiently consolidated, we will examine them and make up our minds.

Question: Is there an estimated date for when we will pull out?

Answer: I would like us to be able to stop, or limit, the Israeli military presence as soon as possible. We have no business or interest in maintaining a military presence there, but because of the present situation one can assume that we will have to maintain some sort of presence for a long time. I still do not know what the size of that presence will be, I can only tell you that in this respect there is absolute unanimity of views among the decision-making echelon in the IDF and among the Cabinet.

Question: In its regional policy, the United States has been singing in various voices: that of President Reagan, Shultz, Weinberger, and so on. What do you think about the fabric of our relations with the United States and its policy?

Answer: First, it would be worthwhile telling ourselves again that we must take care of our own affairs by ourselves. The United States cannot take care of them and it will not. Ever since the war first broke out in Lebanon, the United States has changed its policy a number of times. In the United States, there are sometimes differences of opinions among leaders, and this is manifest in the field. There were periods during which we greatly differed with its policy in Lebanon, but recently — and this has been going on for some time now — there is full and friendly cooperation with the United States. I cannot at the moment come out with serious charges against it. Certainly I would like it to show a more vigorous and determined position in certain cases, but we must also show an understanding for their limitations and constraints. No doubt they could have done more with the firepower they had than they actually did, although I am not sure that this would have brought about a substantial change in the situation. But with regard to Israel, never have relations been so good — and I mean in actual fact, not only in words. They never interfere with us in any sphere. Take, for example, the settlements. It is a lie that there is an agreement [haskama] betweeen us and the United States to stop them! If that were true, would I have sat here for one moment? A person has to have a wild imagination to think that this could be so! Would I agree to stop the settlement campaign in any part of Eretz Yisra'el? There has never been an administration in the United States that has totally refrained from stopping us from doing something. They say the settlements are an obstacle to peace, that is all; and we keep on conducting our own business.

Question: Did Finance Minister Kohen-Orgad not inform the Americans about a slowdown of the settlement drive?

Answer: No. He told Congress about budget cuts. He was asked whether this affects the settlements too, and he said: unfortunately, yes. I would also say that, if asked, because it is known and written in the budget books. There are cuts in every area of government pending, including settlement, defense, and welfare.

Question: Do you disagree with the assumption that there is a de facto freeze on settlements?

Answer: Where is there a freeze? Go out and see for yourselves how they keep on building! There is not the great rush for settlements like last year, but in these things there are ups and downs. I remember Holon, when it was still called (Agro-Bank), and for years its streets were covered with sand and no one came there. Today Holon is a great city in Israel, and the same is true for Bat Yam. This is the settlement process. There are more decisions adopted by the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs regarding the establishment of new settlements that have not yet been built, but which will be built.

Question: What do we know about the Husayn-'Arafat talks?

Answer: I will tell you briefly: There was nothing substantive in them. They have no agreement [heskem] about any political plan. All they did is agree on a formula for common action against the "Israeli occupation."

Question: Is there a dialogue between them on the basis of the Reagan plan?

Answer: Nothing of the sort. Even Husayn no longer mentions the Reagan plan, not only 'Arafat, who has expressed absolute objections to it. They talked about the Fes plan. They talked a lot about cooperation between Jordan and the Palestinian organizations to help the Arab population of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. As everyone knows, they send money to them and help in construction work there. They also want to prevent and limit emigration from these areas. On this they decided to buttress the cooperation between them, but there is no agreement [haskama]

between them on a political plan. They decided that the talks will continue, but for the moment 'Arafat is greatly preoccupied with obtaining a majority of support for him among the members of the Palestine National Council. We know that the same people who were with him in the delegation to the talks with Husayn differed among themselves. Inside the very delegation there were people who voiced other views. 'Arafat does not now control his organization or his people. He is in a serious predicament. At the same time, Husayn is afraid of taking a political step with the 'Arafat seal of approval. They will continue their talks, but they decided that in any case there is nothiing to do before the U.S. elections in November, so they have time.

Question: With your permission, let us move on to domestic issues. Are you not sorry that you did not support Aridor's dollarization plan?

Answer: The dollarization plan was never submitted to the government, and the government was never called upon to discuss it. I think even the former finance minister was not absolutely sure he would submit that plan. He discussed it, dealt with it, but the matter was not finalized to the point where it became a plan of operations. Nonetheless, even while he was still finance minister, the first steps of the policy we are now pursuring — namely cutting the budget, devaluing the shekel, and cutting subsidies — were already begun.

Question: Is the United States helping us economically in a substantial fashion?

Answer: Certainly. The aid has been increased. This is the first time that we are getting all, not just part, of the aid in the form of a grant. Our debt owed to the United States is a great load, and as you know we pay to the last penny, because we must preserve our credit standing in the world. The military aid, which at the time was given half as a loan and half as a grant, is this time entirely a grant. Also, negotiations are currently under way with the United States on a free trade zone. This is a great feat, one that is not easy to implement. There is a political decision in the United States to carry out this agreement with us, and this is unprecedented. If we achieve the agreement, this will greatly change our economic situation, increase exports, and improve the balance of payments very significantly.

Question: Do you still anticipate the establishment of ties with Spain in the foreseeable future?

Answer: I believe they will establish diplomatic ties with us. They will not be able to withstand the pressure to do away with this anachronism. It is unthinkable for them to be the only West European country without diplomatic relations with Israel. There is pressure on them in this regard, both internationally and domestically.

Question: Do you intend to respond to David Levi's desire to be foreign minister? And on another matter, do you plan to initiate a move for "Herut" to call on [former Justice Minister] Shmu'el Tamir and [former Defense Minister] 'Ezer Weizman to return to its fold?

Answer: I have already said, and I continue to believe, that right now I will implement no changes in the government. When the time for changes comes, all sorts of possibilities will be open, including the ones you just mentioned. For the time being, I think it is not healthy to effect changes in the composition of the Cabinet and in the division of responsibilities. As for your second question, the movement's bodies will decide on this. Insofar as Tamir is concerned, I do not think there is any problem; but with regard to 'Ezer Weizman there is the problem of an ideological clarification.

Question: Do you plan to call on Tamir to return?

Answer: I was not planning this or thinking about it. I sometimes talk to him, but I do not see this as a problem.

Question: Do you favor holding early elections, moving them from the end of 1985 to the end of this year?

Answer: I do not think so, but if the coalition's situation in the Knesset required it, I would not see this as a disaster. It is not the end of the world if we hold elections a year or 6 months early. We will have to think about it this summer.

Question: The public was surprised to learn that the Likud has not yet taken advantage of the Levinson affair. How do explain that?

Answer: This is something that shocked the country, but still it is very much an internal matter and affects the labor movement, the Histadrut, the Histadrut holding company. There is a very tragic side to it, a very personal angle, and we did not think it would be wise for us to exploit this tragedy for political ends.

Question: We would like to ask you a personal question: How do you live, how do you work, whom do you regard as your closest associates in the Cabinet? Do you maintain contacts with your predecessor? And when will you move to the prime minister's official residence?

Answer: You asked many questions. How do I work? I work a lot, first of all devoting a lot of time to it. The job, as you know, is extremely tough, and you have to be active in all sorts of fields and be under constant pressures of time. As for associates? I cannot say that some people are closer to me than others, but I cooperate very closely with Cabinet members, with Knesset colleagues, with the coalition factions.

Question: So how can they still make such a lot of trouble for you?

Answer: Perhaps if this were not so they would have a lot more trouble. One could say that from my first moment as prime minister I faced incessant difficulties. I recall that the first Cabinet session was held immediately after my swearing-in in the Knesset and the meeting with the president. We left the presidential residence for this building, the prime minister's office, and spent the whole night discussing the danger of the banks' collapse. We had to bring about order in the system. It is true that we have to date not solved all the economic problems. Far from it. But we have reached a lull and there is a certain amount of stability. This required great efforts, including the

resignation of the finance minister. Maintaining such a coalition is no mean feat, and this is an understatement. There were weeks — and no one knows this better than you, that people said: The Cabinet is about to fall, collapse, falter; but this did not happen. The coalition is intact, the Cabinet is still there, more united than before, and it is possible to work. But first of all this requires an effort, toil, many hours of work, and of course contacts with all the coalition components and circles. Certainly I would have liked to meet with people not on business, but unfortunately I have been unable for lack of time. I think that I will move to the prime minister's residence in a few weeks.

Question: What about contacts with your predecessor?

Answer: I call Mr Begin from time to time. We talk on the phone.

Question: How do you tackle the problem of stepping into Begin's shoes?

Answer: This is not easy, and it is hard to combat. First of all, in terms of the authority, I received the same tools he had, the same coalition, the same Cabinet members, but without the same authority he enjoyed, that supreme authority. The same for the Likud and the Herut Movement. We feared that Menahem Begin's departure would result in a tremor among all those who had followed him for so many years, for whom he was the inalienable leader. All of a sudden you come along and have to stand in his place, not because you want to, but because this was entrusted to you, and this is no mean feat, and its ramifications — I think — will still be felt.

Question: Have you already gotten used to serving in your job?

Answer: Not yet. Besides, what does it mean getting used to something? In such a job you can never get used to anything, because each day presents surprises. There are no routines.

Question: Has your previous experience in other administrative jobs helped you in your job now?

Answer: Each one operates his own way. They say it is a novelty that I get into the specifics and details of the work of the different government ministries. In my opinion this is only natural. I am interested in many spheres. I maintain very close contact, for example, with the finance minister, because I am aware of the great importance our economic problems have now and I am familiar with the minute details of economic policy and its implementation. Needless to say I am interested in political and defense affairs, and maintain constant contact with the defense minister and the chief of staff. I am also interested in settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and periodically meet with the people dealing with that. I have set myself a rule to hold frequent meetings with the ministers on matters that are in their domain only. Thus I get the picture of how the ministries operate, so that when issues are broached at the Cabinet meeting, I know what they are talking about. Of course, this is still a far cry from doing all that I should do.

Question: Do you also believe that the media, led by television, is hostile to the Cabinet?

Answer: I very seldom watch television, I only watch the MABAT newsreel and listen to the radio. This business is unbalanced. There is a lot to correct here, not only in terms of the partisan balance, but also in terms of the approach to national problems, Israeli economic policy. There is a lot to correct.

Question: Are you aware of the fact that the polarization between religious circles and nonreligious ones is widening in Israel?

Answer: This is nothing new. Conflicts between the religious and the nonreligious have been with us all along, and I can remember many government crises against this background, including demonstrations and riots. I would like to say that this is our job as the government, parties, the media, and anyone who has any influence on the public, to decrease the polarization between the different camps, not only between religious and nonreligious circles, but also between the different political groupings. In fact, I would start with the political polarization. The political differences of opinion between the different parties under no circumstances justify the sharpness and poignancy of their confrontation. Things sometimes snowball because of someone's sharp term or expression, leading to a further sharp remark by someone else, and all of a sudden we find ourselves embroiled in such a tense atmosphere that one thinks a civil war is about to erupt any day. This should be avoided. Such differences do not justify bitter wars. As for the polarization between religious and nonreligious circles, we must recognize that we have to live together. Ever since the state was established, the way to coexist, the way of mutual tolerance, was ought. There is no other choice, and this, after all, is what our existence depends on.

Question: One last question: This week it was reported that President Reagan may visit Israel early this summer. Is that so?

Answer: I do not know, but we would be very happy for the President to visit Israel and we would welcome him with all the honor and affection he is due.

Shamir, Arens Meet on IDF Redeployment in Lebanon

TA081928 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1905 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The government will soon be asked to approve a draft resolution on another IDF withdrawal in southern Lebanon. This was concluded by the prime minister and defense minister in a special meeting yesterday. Our correspondent Yisra'el Segal has learned that following this meeting the prime minister yesterday summoned a number of ministers and informed them of his decision to deploy the IDF along a new line in the wake of the abrogation of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement. The prime minister asked the defense minister to bring to the Cabinet meeting — in which the draft resolution on a withdrawal will be raised — full details about the new line the IDF will choose in southern Lebanon and the plan for redeployment.

Two papers which are issued in Beirut write today that the IDF is planning a sudden withdrawal in southern Lebanon which will be implemented as of this Sunday, in order to encourage a civil war between the Christian militia and the Shi'ites and to harm

the conciliatory conference which is supposed to convene in Switzerland next week.

The pro-Syrian paper *ASH-SHARQ* writes that the IDF has already begun preparations for what it terms a speedy withdrawal to a new line along the Az-Zahrani River south of Sidon. Also *STAR*, which is an independent English-language paper quotes unidentified sources as saying that the IDF's withdrawal in southern Lebanon will begin on Sunday and its intention is to disrupt the convening of the conciliatory meeting in Switzerland on Monday.

Adviser Denies Meeting Report

TA081938 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1929 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister's adviser on communications and foreign press, Avi Pazner, this evening totally denied the report we broadcast earlier, that yesterday Prime Minister Shamir and Defense Minister Arens decided to implement another withdrawal in Lebanon and to bring a draft resolution on this matter to one of the Cabinet's coming meetings.

The prime minister's office says that there was no meeting between Arens and Shamir yesterday and that the report is unfounded. It was further said that the prime minister did not inform some of the senior Cabinet ministers about the decision he was reported to have made to withdraw to a new deployment line in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent insists on the truth of the report we broadcast.

Consultations on Redeployment Reported

TA082022 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2003 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] In preparation for the coming Cabinet meeting, the IDF will prepare a detailed plan for a new deployment in southern Lebanon in view of the abrogation of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement by President al-Jumayyil. In consultations in Jerusalem it was agreed to unilaterally implement security arrangements in coordination with local elements and with the United States.

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that in the consultation held yesterday the participants included the defense minister, the chief of staff and senior Foreign Ministry officials. As said, the conclusions [sikumim] that the IDF will prepare will be brought to the Cabinet for decision.

Correspondent on Possible Redeployment

TA081952 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Report by military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky from television studio in Jerusalem — live]

[Text] Even if the Cabinet soon decides on a new IDF deployment in southern Lebanon, let us immediately say that such a deployment will last weeks and perhaps even months. The IDF will have to dismantle the old line along the Al-Awwali River in which about $30 million have been invested.

As for the new deployment, it will be the Cabinet decision that will determine the character of the line according to the plans presented by the IDF. Generally speaking, the majority in the Cabinet supports a security zone of about 25-km which will safeguard the Galilee against Katyushas. The IDF will want to have as few local residents on this line as possible.

As for the nature of the IDF's presence, a flexible line is possible and this will mean a very limited deployment inside a security strip and regular movement [tenu'a] by the IDF from the Green Line [Israel-Lebanon border] into Lebanon.

A deployment along a new line is also possible, along the lines of the IDF's presence along the Al-Awwali River, namely, a permanent presence in the area to make it clear to the residents that the IDF is remaining in Lebanon.

As for the line itself, the population's needs and the political restrictions preclude a hermetic closure of the line. All of this leads to the conclusion that at this stage one cannot talk of local forces to replace the IDF. The IDF will remain in Lebanon for a long time to come, perhaps years, until the conditions are created, in the government's opinion, for safeguarding the Galilee's security.

Schiffer: Positions on Redeployment

TA090637 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer — live in the studio with ministers' remarks recorded earlier]

[Text] One should emphasize right from the start that there is a consensus in the Cabinet to maintain the IDF deployment in Lebanon as a means to secure the safety of the northern border. The argument, then, is over how deeply involved we should remain, how broad the security strip should be, how large the forces in Lebanon should be, and when the redeployment decisions will be made. Deputy Prime Minister Levi reveals in an interview that will be broadcast tomorrow on the "Weekly Newsreel" program that the Cabinet will make the redeployment decisions soon. In Minister Levi's opinion it is possible to establish a national consensus on the nature and essence of the security arrangements in Lebanon.

[Levi] There must be an Israeli presence, although not a massive presence or static presence, in a strip to be proposed by the General Staff Headquarters. The local forces which will help in this mission should be reinforced until the situation improves and perhaps a new situation is created. Nothing is static. On this matter, with both parties — I am sure — interested in the same objective, the national consensus is a must — not in terms of slogans but in a sober look at how to obtain both these objectives.

[Schiffer] In deliberations held in Jerusalem over the past few weeks, several ministers have already expressed their views.

Ministers Zvulun Hammer and Mordekhay Tzipori support the proposals raised by members of the General Staff Headquarters to the Cabinet, and all this is already known: A deployment along a narrow strip a maximum of 30-km north of the border, and apparently they have in mind a prolonged or permanent deployment.

The ministers could discern two tunes with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir: the first, that we must find ways to limit our presence in Lebanon; and the second, that we must not rush, as caution demands patience and waiting. How long? Another few weeks.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens refused to disclose his opinion during the latest debates, but continues to hesitate and debate with himself. Former Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, on the other hand, found himself attacking the plans that were presented, voicing serious reservations as to the way security matters are being handled these days and criticizing the concepts mentioned in connection with the redeployment.

Last night Ari'el Sharon publicly expressed his views, which he had earlier only voiced to ministers in deliberations behind closed doors. Sharon warned against the desire to flee Lebanon. In his view, Israel should continue to hold on to the 40-km security strip and remain along the Al-Awwali, and in the Al-Biqa' and Jabal al-Baruk areas — all of which never appear in the proposals at all.

[Sharon] The Lebanon issue exists, and it is necessary to adopt a series of decisions regarding Lebanon, which will allow Israel to maintain the security strip in southern Lebanon, and that security strip is a 40-km strip. I would warn every man in Israel against the tendency and desire which exists among many to flee today, to get out or pull out. We must maintain the 40-km security strip. It is necessary to remain on the Al-Awwali and in the Jabal al-Baruk and Al-Biqa' areas. What we must do is decide how to activate the forces — their size — and we must make every effort to limit the number of our units there, bring as many soldiers as possible back home. But at the same time we must remember that under no circumstances can we return to the situation that prevailed earlier in the northern part of Israel. I would warn each one of us against entering into any new negotiations with the Lebanese.

[Anchorman Yitzhaq Ro'e] Apropos to the above, our correspondent Shalom Oren reports that in a lecture before moshavim members in the 'Adullam District, where he also delivered the above-mentioned speech, Minister Sharon said that Israel gives in on various matters even without being pressured to do so. Sharon attacked the prime minister's associates who said that while he was defense minister relations with the United States worsened.

[Sharon] These accusations by the prime minister's associates are unacceptable to me as well their method of saying this. Whenever I have something to tell the prime minister, I call him, request a meeting with him, go to him, and tell him what is on my mind; alternatively, I say it during Cabinet sessions. I do not accept the method of sending messages through messengers and officials. I have nothing against officials — I have no great love for them — but I simply think this is not the way to work.

More on Redeployment Deliberations

TA090754 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel]

[Text] There is very little disagreement in the government over the need in principle to redeploy in Lebanon. The question right now is only how and when. There is as yet no official decision and the process of drawing up plans is still under way — and will be for some time. No date has so far been set for a Cabinet debate on the matter, and it does not look like it will happen in the next week. This, then, is the state of affairs.

Yitzhaq Shamri believes that right now there is no longer any need to put off making a decision. The political situation in Lebanese territory north of the Al-Awwali is still unstable, but this makes no difference to Jerusalem, not any more. The prime minister believes there is no point in launching renewed negotiations with Amin al-Jumayyil, and casts great doubt on the question of whether the Syrians truly want security arrangements with Israel as the Lebanese claim.

This week Shamir asked the defense establishment to submit plans and recommendations, and asked that the various plans also take into account the demands [derishot] raised by the ministers in previous discussions on the redeployment.

Shamir's associates and members of his personal staff say that he believes the Cabinet members should be made to take part in shaping decisions.

This week the prime minister conferred with his deputy, and David Levi, too, believes — as he said last night — that the decision will be made soon.

We found less optimism regarding the imminence of the date of the final decision in Defense Minister Moshe Arens's office. It was emphasized there that the defense establishment is busy working on the planning stage, but that there are a number of problems requiring deep thinking and careful consideration.

According to reports we read and heard about this week, withdrawals to various lines are being considered. One way or another, at issue is a new method, a new deployment, not along defined lines.

Political circles have described the desired plans as minimal plans — involving the minimum number of local inhabitants; involving the minimum possible number of IDF soldiers, with an emphasis on the last point; involving the minimum necessary territory for the defense of the northern border.

Let us also note that according to several plans under examination, the IDF would withdraw to the purple [color as heard] line — or the international border — while in the Cabinet, on the other hand, the view is that there is no alternative but to leave the IDF in southern Lebanon — in one form or another — for an extended period.

Redeployment Alternatives Reviewed

TA090810 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Report by military correspondent Doron Rosenblum]

[Text] Ever since the Israeli-Lebanese agreement was abrogated earlier this week, the General Staff Headquarters planning for the IDF redeployment in Lebanon has accelerated. People in the Defense Ministry and the IDF's Planning Branch are currently working hard trying to formulate a number of alternatives for a Lebanon redeployment so that the Cabinet can make a final decision. One thing is certain: As a result of the abrogation of the accord, the Lebanese Army has been removed from any plan involving the IDF withdrawal from Lebanon. The Lebanese Army had originally been planned as a buffer there, before the fighting in Beirut erupted, and the intention was to have one of the Lebanese Army brigades enter Sidon and replace the IDF. Right now, as we said, the Lebanese Army is out of any plan, and furthermore is incapable, at the moment, of carrying out the role that was assigned to it.

So what, then, are the options open to the IDF in Lebanon? Is it to withdraw to the Az-Zahrani River, or to the Al-Litani, or to the international border between Israel and Lebanon, what is known as the purple [color as heard] line? The accepted assumption in the General Staff Headquarters is that the IDF will withdraw to a position 25-km from the northern border, so as to prevent Katyushas from again falling on the settlements there. However, a final plan has not yet been worked out. One way or another, any IDF withdrawal will largely be based on local militia groups which will be composed of members of all the sects — militia groups which the IDF has been nurturing. These forces will be entrusted with carrying out routine security missions and preventing terrorists from penetrating the areas that the IDF will evacuate. The stronger these forces are, and the more effective they are in carrying out routine security missions, the greater the possibility that the IDF will feel free to withdraw farther south and limit its presence in the area.

The nature of the new line has not yet been determined, and there is no decision as to whether it will be made up of outposts like the current line, or alternatively of mobile units and patrols, or perhaps of permanently stationed units deployed near the local militia group concentrations to supervise their activity. In the eastern sector, it looks like the IDF will not change its deployment there as long as the Syrians maintain the current deployment lines. The IDF's withdrawal will not be able to be implemented in hours, as foreign media reports indicate. In calculating the time necessary, the dismantling of the Al-Awwali line should also be taken into account as $30 million was invested in building it at the time, one must remember.

Ministers Divided on Issue

TA090825 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 9 Mar 84 pp 1, 22

[Report by Moti Basok]

[Excerpt] Opinions are divided in the Cabinet as well as at IDF General Staff Headquarters regarding the nature of the new deployment and its exact location. There was, inter alia, some indecision in the meetings held in the prime minister's office as to whether the line would be a static one, similar to the present one on the Al-Awwali, or whether it would be a more dynamic one. Another question is how far the IDF will withdraw. There are three concepts regarding this point: Ministers Sharon and Ne'eman are demanding that the IDF remain on the Al-Awwali. Five other ministers (Levi, Tzipori, Hammer, Burg, and Uzan) speak of withdrawing to the Az-Zahrani. Shamir and Arens speak of withdrawing to a line somewhere between the Al-Awwali and the Az-Zahrani, and most of the ministers will support this position.

The prime minister and defense minister are not particularly keen on a UN force as a buffer between the IDF and the Syrian Army; nor are the interested in strengthening the Haddad brigade. The opinions held by Shamir and Arens on these two issues differ from those of the aforementioned "group of five."

Avi Pazner, the prime minister's adviser on communications and foreign press, stated yesterday that the government would continue to examine the issue of the IDF's redeployment in Lebanon in Cabinet meetings. According to him, Prime Minister Shamir and Defense Minister Arens did not reach a final decision in their meetings this week. Pazner stressed that the IDF is continuing to look into the various options. Concurrently with the talks in the prime minister's office, discussions are also under way at IDF General Staff Headquarters.

Meanwhile Israel's "embassy" north of Beirut is still operating as usual. No one in the Lebanese Government has demanded that its members leave, following the abrogation of the agreement with Israel. A London *TIMES* correspondent who visited there discovered that the Lebanese flag was flying over the building. Two Lebanese soldiers were guarding the entrance. Embassy staffers were keeping an eye on things from the roof of the stone building, which is located in the heart of a Christian neighborhood, but within range of Syrian guns.

David Levi Comments on IDF Presence in Lebanon

TA081859 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1842 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Tel Aviv, 8 Mar (ITIM) — Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said today that the size of and area controlled by the IDF in Lebanon will be reduced to the minimum possible, while taking into consideration the needs of the Galilee settlements.

Mr Levi who was interviewed on the "New Evening" program on educational television said in answer to a quesiton that the decisions were made according to the proposals of the IDF's General Staff. In his estimation, a Cabinet decision on reducing the IDF presence in southern Lebanon will be made soon.

He took exception to the assessment of his colleague, Science and Development Minister Yuval Ne'eman, who said on the television program Moqed [7 March] that he anticipates a continued IDF presence in southern Lebanon for the coming 10 to 12 years. "Whoever says this has entered the domain of fatalism," the deputy prime minister said.

Terrorist in Jerusalem Store Bombing Captured

TA081925 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The terrorist who planted the boobytrapped hand grenades at the entrance to a clothing shop on Yafo Street in Jerusalem 10 days ago was captured. Two of the hand grenades exploded and he himself was severely injured. The terrorist's condition is stable now and he is being interrogated.

Israeli Citizen Killed in Ambush in S. Lebanon

TA082016 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] An Israeli citizen was killed this morning when small arms fire was directed from an ambush south of Al-Qir'awn Lake. This was reported by the IDF spokesman. The family has been notified. It was reported that at 0930 fire was opened from ambush at a civilian truck that was doing land work south of the village of Suhmur, and the civilian was killed as a result of the shots. The IDF forces have begun searching the area. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the heads of the Druze villages in the area expressed their shock over the act to IDF officers in the area. According to him there is a single terrorist group from the area which is trying to raise the tension level. The heavy truck drivers began a strike a while ago, and demanded that the Defense Ministry compensate them for the risks that are entailed in their work in Lebanon, and that it will ensure appropriate security arrangements.

Syria Wants Israeli Representation Out of Beirut

TA071059 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 7 Mar 84 p 1

[Report by political correspondent]

[Text] Syria is demanding that Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil do away with the Israeli representation in Beirut and not be content with abrogating the agreement with Israel. Syria is also demanding that the Lebanese Army be trained by Syrian officers instead of U.S. officers.

Yet another demand is that all officers in the Lebanese Army who collaborated with Israel be fired. So far, Al-Jumayyil has rejected these demands, but he may be compelled to give in shortly.

Despite the cancellation of the agreement, political circles in Jerusalem believe that the contacts between Israel and representatives of the Lebanese Government will continue at lower levels, in order to exchange information.

Consultations are being held in Jerusalem on the stand which Israel should take on the abrogation of the agreement. Inter alia, various plans for an IDF redeployment are being examined.

A Lebanese diplomatic source emphatically denied a report broadcast by the IDF radio to the effect that the Lebanese foreign minister had contacted the Israeli representative in Beirut and asked him to open new negotiations on security arrangements in southern Lebanon.

At the same time, the diplomatic source noted that last Friday Lebanon's foreign minister had asked the U.S. ambassador in Beirut to arrange urgent consultations among Lebanon, the United States, and Israel to examine the difficulties in applying the Israel-Lebanon agreement. However, the U.S. ambassador had not responded to the Lebanese foreign minister's request, the source added.

Military Government Renews Ban on PLO Meetings

TA070950 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 Mar 84, p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] The military government has renewed its ban on residents of the territories meeting with PLO members. The military governors have already told many of the notables who met with 'Arafat in Amman that this was a one-time occurrence, and that Israel would not keep silent on this in future.

Following this warning, consultations were held in the territories and it was decided that when future meetings are held with 'Arafat, they will not be attended by figures who could be harmed by Israel — such as functionaries and mayors.

At the same time, our reporter has learned that 'Arafat permitted King Husayn to approve the appointment by Israel of a number of West Bank figures to the position of mayor, replacing Israeli mayors. Several municipalities which have so far boycotted the civilian administration have now lifted their boycott on instructions from Jordan, and for the first time have enabled civilian administration officials to visit them. The joint committee in Amman also approved the first sum of money for municipalities and public institutions in the territories, after an interval dating back to the beginning of the Lebanese war. Municipalities in the Bethlehem area will receive over 1 million dinars, and have been asked to prepare development programs. Israel forbids money from the joint committee entering the territories. The joint committee has still not received most of the funds promised by the Arab states. A joint delegation from Jordan and the PLO is due to leave for the various oil states shortly in order to collect the promised funds.

U.S. Envoy Lewis: Reagan Visit 'Not Ruled Out'

TA071325 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Mar 84 pp 1, 11

[Report by Yosef Harif]

[Text] A visit to Israel by U.S. President Ronald Reagan in June should not be ruled out. Mr Reagan will be visiting Ireland at that time. This was noted by U.S. Ambassador Lewis during the visit of Secretary of Labor Raymond Donovan when he met President Herzog yesterday.

So far no tangible arrangements have been made in this respect.

Earlier this week President Reagan's reply to Prime Minister Shamir arrived. In his letter Shamir had asked Washington not to endorse the abrogation of the Israeli-Lebanon agreement. The U.S. President's reply had been written before the agreement was annulled.

The letter is filled with several positive expressions such as a staunch desire on the part of the United States to continue its collaboration with Israel in the economic and strategic spheres. However, in light of the developments in Lebanon the letter appears somewhat "dated."

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi 8 March Speech on Syrian Anniversary

LD082138 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at celebration in People's Hall, Tripoli, on 8 March to mark 21st anniversary of Syria's 8 March revolution — live]

[Excerpts] We are meeting here today to commemorate the anniversary of the 9 March revolution, which destroyed the forces of secession in Syria, and which was the revolutionary reaction to secession which hit the most cherished aspirations of the Arab nation on that black Thursday, 28 September, 1961.

From Tripoli we extend our greetings to Damascus, Syria, the pulsating heart of Arabism. We extend our congratulations on this day to our steadfast Brother Hafiz al-Asad. We extend our greetings and feelings of closeness to the soldiers of the heroic Syrian Army who stand fast on the lines of confrontation at occupied Golan and the Al-Biqa' where the battles of Arab nationalism, the honorable battles of Arab nationalism, are taking place.

We must continue the task of the 8 March revolution. It is the task of restoring the unity that was severed by force. But the secessionist force that severed the unity was destroyed on 8 March. The work must continue, and the struggle, the march, and the revolution must continue until unity is restored between Egypt and Syria — and not only between Syria and Egypt but also between Syria, Egypt, Libya and the other countries of the Arab nation. [applause and chants]

Today we celebrate an anniversary which is not a regional anniversary. It is a revolutionary movement staged in Syria to strike at forces that plotted against the unity of the Arab nation. This occasion, when all businesses in the Syrian and Libyan regions are closed, is not a regional occasion and it is not a Syrian occasion. It is a pan-Arab occasion. [applause]

Brothers, we must not content ourselves with remembering the 8 March anniversary. We must achieve the objectives of 8 March which are: Destruction of the secession and dismantling of the borders between the countries of the Arab nation. It means the destruction of the regionalism in which we live now.

We in Syria, Egypt, and Libya as well as the other countries of the Arab nation — particularly in Syria — are called upon to realize unity for which the 8 March revolution was staged. [applause and chants]

For the sake of history, I must say that work for unity has never stopped. Syria has not contented itself with the destruction of secession on 8 March but went further to achieve unity. Another attempt was made to unify Syria, Egypt and Iraq after 8 March. But the secessionist and fascist forces plotted against it and aborted this unity in 1964, even before it was born. But unionist forces in Syria continued to work for the restoration of unity to the shattered homeland.

A few months before 'Abd an-Nasir died, attempts were made to go from Tripoli to Damascus and declare a federation of Arab republics [UAR], or something similar. This was proposed by 'Abd an-Nasir when we, and the leaders of the Syrian region and the Egyptian region met in Libya after the revolution. [applause]

But 'Abd an-Nasir's death and the plotting of the reactionary and agent forces against Egypt obstructed this great work.

After that, Syria marched on the road of unity and the UAR was created among the Syrian, Egyptian, and Libyan regions. On 1st September, a referendum was made on this unity among the peoples of the three regions. The millions rallied in columns to say yes to the UAR.

But the vanquished As-Sadat, the agent of Zionism, plotted against the UAR, violated the UAR constitution, and dishonored the oath he had taken before the people's assembly of the three countries.

Where are the millions in Syria, Egypt, and Libya who rallied on 1 September and said yes to the UAR. Where are these masses now? Why do not they demand the revival of this federation? Why do not they defend this federation, which was created by the will of the masses? Why are there no constitutional courts held in Egypt, Syria, and Libya to try those who violated the UAR constitution?

I ask the masses in Egypt, Libya, and Syria to defend this federation, which is being sought to bury. The UAR was made by the will of the masses. As-Sadat betrayed it and tried to bury it. He himself was buried but the UAR must not be buried. Consequently, I now ask the Egyptian people themselves and the men of law in Egypt to raise constitutional cases in the courts — that is if there are any courts in Egypt, if there is any constitution in Egypt, if there is any respect for the people's will in Egypt.

I know what I am saying constitutes some challenge to the regime in Egypt and a provocation to the Egyptian people and army at one and the same time. However if there are such institutions, they should try the former and latter regimes in Egypt for violating the UAR constitution.

When we in the front of steadfastness and confrontation met in Tripoli after the betrayal of the defunct and buried as-sadat, we did not expell Egypt from the UAR, but as-sadat himself was expelled from the UAR council. Constitutionally, legally, and in popular and Arab terms, Egypt is still a member of the UAR. We declare now that we adhere to the UAR constitution and we will implement everything that the UAR constitution provides for in respect of Egypt and the internal events in Egypt. This is because the UAR constitution gives UAR members the right to intervene in the internal affairs of any other member country that deviates from the course of the federation, harms the UAR, violates the UAR constitution, and plots against the UAR.

The UAR constitution gives UAR member countries — even to one of the three countries forming the UAR — the right to act. Should the other countires be unable to act, then the constitution gives that country the right to intervene even in the internal affairs to safeguard the unity of the UAR. This is a legal and

constitutional matter, which nobody can deny or object to.

Thus Egypt, I say openly — and let the masses in Egypt, Syria, Libya, and the world hear — Egypt is a UAR member despite the fact that the Egyptian Government is now deep in supreme national treason from head to toe. This does not mean that Arab Egypt, the Egyptian people, the Egyptian Arab country, Egypt, heart of Arabism, is outside the pan-Arab battle, outside Arab unity. We are now making another challenge to the regime in Egypt: If this regime wants to rid itself of the supreme treason left to it by the buried As-Sadat, we say that we are lifting the siege on the Egyptian people and we (?are ready) to interact with the Egyptian masses and provide support for the Egyptian people, but this does not mean in any case meeting with the Egyptian regime. The Egyptian regime is still on the blacklist and will remain on it until it leaves stable David. If the borders between the Egyptian and the Libyan peoples are opened, or between the Egyptian and Syrian peoples, or between these three peoples: And the Syrian side also opens the borders between the Egyptian people and the Syrian people; and the borders are opened between the Libyan and Egyptian people, this should not be seen in the slightest as a meeting or link with the Egyptian regime. There will be no meeting at all with the Egyptian regime unless it is out of stable David because it is a regime that has committed supreme treason and constitutes a danger to Arab nationalism, the unity of the Arab nation, and the future of the Arab nation.

It has allied itself with the enemy, lifted the siege around the enemy, and made the enemy breathe with a new artificial lung. It has normalized relations with the enemy and revived the enemy's economy. Egyptian goods are still pouring into the Israeli enemy and vice-versa. This means revival of the enemy and giving the enemy a new injection each time the siege around it is tightened, the siege of the strong Arab boycott.

This is a regime that has opened a door for the enemy to enter the house, that has revived the enemy economically, militarily, and politically. Had Egypt not capitulated militarily, the Israelis would not have been able to destroy Beirut, reach it, beseige it, and expel the Palestinian resistance from it; because the Israelis were assured that the enemy's southern front was secure and guarded by the Egyptian regime. It is indeed a heavy thing for me to say protected by Egypt or by the Egyptian Army, but now Egypt has been consecrated by its regime to guard the Israeli enemy in order to devote itself to the destruction of their Arab brothers in Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria. Egypt is now free for all [mustabahah]. Sinai is occupied. The Egyptian forces cannot enter Sinai, while the Israeli forces can operate in Sinai. The Egyptian people cannot carry out any action in Sinai, Even though it is their land because it is forbidden. All that has happened in Sinai is a formal withdrawal, a fictitious one. All the arrangements freeze the Egyptian front in order to devote the time for the destruction of the northern front. If this situation continues the enemy will one day, with the backing of the United States, the staunch enemy of the Arab nation, strike at Syria, destroy its military strength, and tear it up. Should this dream happen God forbid, the Israeli forces, as I have said repeatedly, will be able to proceed in the Arab East to the Euphrates and the Tigris, reach the Gulf, and take the rivers' water, the oil, and the holy places, including Mecca and Medina. What is preventing them from doing so is the steadfastness of Syria — the heroic Syrian Army, the heroic people of Syria [applause] led by the heroic President Hafiz al-Asad. [applause] the Israeli forces will not be able to achieve this dream while Syria enjoys this military strength and economic strength.

I call here in the name of the UAR in the name of the sanctity of the UAR constitution [applause], and in the name of the innumerable martyrs sacrificed by Egypt on the road of Arabism and liberation [words indistinct]. In the name of all these sanctities, I call on the Egyptian people to embark now on positive opposition and to come out of the stage of negative opposition and stage sit-ins in the streets, even by the hundreds, then the thousands, then the millions — like the Iranian people — or then take to armed resistance like the Lebanese people, which bought down and burned with the rifle and the [word indistinct] the shameful and [word indistinct] 17 May agreement. [applause]

We greet the national Lebanese tough resistance, honorable resistance, which placed the Egyptian people in an unenviable situation. With all that is said about it, the Lebanese Government has placed the Egyptian Government in an extremely disgraceful situation. The Lebanese people, who are small in number; the Lebanese Army, which is small in number; the honorable Lebanese resistance; and the Lebanese President, who lacks recognition and who has a great deal of problems, have — in spite of all that — succeeded in destroying the 17 May agreement, which is a stable David accord No. 2. [applause; chants] Though Israeli forces were occupying southern Lebanon within eyesight of Beirut, they could not intimidate the national Lebanese willpower and prevent it from tearing, in front of Egypt and before the sight of the Israeli forces, the accord that tied Arab Lebanon to Zionism, and which in fact is tantamount to stable David accord No 2.

It is shameful for Egyptian officials to say now that they are afraid that the Israelis will tear the stable David accord No 1. We say to them: Look, here is the Lebanese people; here is the Lebanese Government; here is the Lebanese army, which is small in number; here is the national Lebanese movement — they have torn stable David accord No 2, which is the 17 May agreement, without fearing the Israelis or America. They tore it under the bombing of Israeli aircraft and under the threat of America, the big power. [applause; anti-U.S. chants]

The tearing-up of the 17 May agreement was almost impossible. Now that it is no longer impossible; it is no longer impossible to tear up the stable David accord. It is shame for the stable David accord to remain intact. It is shameful for the Egyptian people and the Egyptian Army. [applause; chants: "Let the Egyptian people revolt and tear the accord"]

Brothers. Let the Egyptian regime know that it is now in an extremely bad situation and in a historical impasse.

We have decided to extend our hand to the Egyptian people. We will go to Egypt without arms this time. We will go to the Egyptian people. We will be exercising our right over Arab land. Egypt is a part of the UAR. We can even go without passports, just as is provided for in the UAR constitution, which we will implement as of 28 March. [applause]

Today, we are claiming a constitutional and a legal matter. This is another source of embarrassment for the situation in Egypt. It is a legal and constitutional embarrassment. It has to prevent UAR citizens from reaching each other.

Egypt is a part of the UAR; it is a member of the UAR. We are UAR citizens. We want to go to Egypt. We are against the government of that country because it is still submerged in treason, which it inherited from As-Sadat. As-Sadat left it tied down by its neck and passed away accursed.

We are against this government and we oppose the political regime in Egypt. We will not meet with it at all. This is because it has committed high treason and a historical crime against the Arab nation by its recognition of the Zionist entity.

We do not recognize the existence of anything called Israel. We will pay the price however high, for the sake of the liberation of Palestine from the river to the sea, inch by inch even if we have to drench it with blood and cover it with our corpses. [applause; chants]

I call upon the Syrian and Libyan peoples to ally themselves with the Egyptian people and go to Egypt, to the Egyptian people. We want to meet with the Egyptian people. In order to prevent the Egyptian regime from having any pretext to prevent members of the one Arab people from meeting, we wish to affirm to it that we will this time come unarmed. The Egyptian regime may set up grates and search all comers and it may exercise such an arbitrary method against the sons of the Arab nation. Let it and its machinery, which are so skilled in this sort of thing, to devise ways to search us and follow us in every part of Egypt, to ascertain that we have no explosives or arms. All we want to do is embarrass it and place it in an impasse: Either prevent us and thus have friction and confrontation with us and thus embarrass it before the Egyptian people, or accept our presence. We want to meet with the Egyptian people and strike an alliance against stable David.

Maybe there is still some good in this regime. We want to facilitate its departure from stable David. We want it to go to America — its god, the god of Arab reaction and Arab agents — to say to it in humility and subservience: I have no alternative; the people want to leave the stable David accord. If you want me to remain in power, I must submit to the will of the people. If you want to topple me, then force me to remain tied to the stable David accord.

I address myself to the living forces of the Egyptian people, the organized forces, both overt and covert. I call them to civil disobedience, to sit-ins, to strikes and to demonstrations. They should first resort to peaceful struggle and turn it into a positive struggle. If the will of the people is not heeded, then the regime will lose all justification for existence. The people will then have the right to use all means, including the force of arms, to force the regime to open the way before the people for them to assert their will. [applause and chants]

What Lebanon represents internally — within the Arab homeland — to Syria, is similar to what Egypt represents to Libya, or Libya to Egypt. The Libyan stance vis-a-vis the stable David accord should, bilaterally [bishakil thuna'i] be similar to Syria's stance toward Lebanon and the 17 May agreement. Syria stood fast and resisted the 17 May agreement from the first day and the Libyan people responded with the Syrian people and leadership. Demonstrations were staged in Libya rejecting the 17 May agreement, and we decided to align ourselves with the Syrian people in its unwavering steadfastness against the 17 May agreement because the 17 May agreement constituted a danger to Syria. The Israeli enemy came to the Syrian borders, and according to this agreement it could use Lebanon, by land, sea or air, against the security, unity and independence of Syria.

It is because Syria's steadfastness meant the steadfastness of the Arab nation, and because Syria is now in the forward trench of the Arab nation that the Libyan people was and is the counterpart of the Syrian people in this steadfastness. It offered arms, volunteers, materiel, and moral and political support to the Syrian and the Lebanese peoples. Thus, the Libyan people should assume the same stance, as that of the Syrian people against the 17 May agreement and against the stable David accord because Egypt constitutes a danger for us and the Arab nation.

Egypt gave the enemy the opportunity to amass all its forces on the northern front. These forces are still concentrated on the northern front in order to destroy Arab resistance in Syria, Lebanon and Palesetine. I say that Egypt, in signing the stable David Accord, has, in addition to posing danger to Arab nationalism and the Arab nation, posed a direct danger to the Libyan territorial integrity, Libyan security and Libyan independence. The Israeli chief of staff reached the Libyan borders over the bridge of stable David. From stable David the enemy was able to reach the Libyan borders. Therefore, Egypt's borders have become Israel's borders. Egyptian borders have become Israeli borders. Who can ensure that the Israeli forces will not cross Egypt to attack Libya? Who can ensure that? Egypt is thronged with Israeli spies who spy on the Arab homeland, drawing maps on how to divert the Nile through Sinai to the Negev Desert. The Jews intend to eliminate Syria and the Arab East, then turn to Egypt to partition it and usurp the Nile.

Begin, the terrorist, after returning from stable David, sent a cable to the American President in which he said: I admit that you have exerted efforts for signing this accord on a par with the efforts made by our forefathers in building the pyramids. What does that mean? It means that by signing the stable David accord the pyramids have come within reach of the Israelis, and that begin intended to tell the world that the pyramids are Israeli pyramids because they were built by Jewish Israelis. [Words indistinct] they also say that Mecca was built by Abraham, and Abraham was a Jew; therefore Mecca is for us and the pyramids are for us. This in addition to the selfish interest of diverting the Nile to the Negev so that 6 million Jews may colonize it. Thus Egypt, by the admission of this enemy, constitutes a danger. Israeli forces might be stationed on Egypt's Libyan borders. [Few words indistinct] Egypt might not accept this. However, Egypt is in the enemy's grip. Egypt as a country was forced to sign the stable David accord because it was defeated in the war. It was defeated in the Ramadan war and the Israeli forces withdrew only after the signing of this agreement.

Therefore, Egypt does not have the capability to check the Israeli

forces, as as if it is frightened of the Israeli forces if it decides to leave the Camp David accords. As long as it is afraid, it is possible for the Israeli forces to cross to Libya. Egypt's pretext in this eventuality would be that it is afraid of the Israelis and can not resist them because the Americans are behind them, as the deceased as-sadat had said: I accept this agreement and subjugate to it because I cannot fight America and stand before America. This pretext may be repeated by the president of Egypt. Israeli and U.S. forces may attack us from Egypt, and it would be said: by the Egyptians: who do not have the capability to resist the U.S. forces and the Israeli forces. Hence, Egypt, by its recognition of the enemy by signing the Camp David accords, has constituted a direct danger to Libya. Libya cannot be silent about that. It also contitutes a danger to the Arab nation, and the Arab nation is not silent about that. If the agents and the reactionaries, who do not differ from the deceased, treacherous agent As-Sadat, have been silent, they do not represent the Arab nation and they may be finished by a bullet worth 5 dirham as the deceased As-Sadat was.

The current occurrance of embracing and welcoming the Egyptian president is nothing but a provocation to the Arab will, nationalist feeling, and Arab masses. By humilating it, this will bring the day of the revolution nearer.

[Words indistinct] (?follow) As-Sadat will pay the price one day. This nation should be respected. They humiliate these masses, provoke the feelings of the Arab nation. An Arab president recognized the Israelis being welcomed in the Arab capitals and embraced. What a shame; they provoke (?the feeling) of the Arab masses. They look upon these masses as flocks of sheep. They are not flocks of sheep; they are a great nation, a glorious nation.

They will pay the price. I assure them that they will pay the price on a day when no one will be of help to them, as As-Sadat paid the price before the world and America could prevent a mean burst from a Kalashinkov worth 1 dinar. Who can protect any agent? No one could protect King 'Abdallah from the punishment, nor could America protect its agent the Shah when he was expelled, nor was America able to save the life of As-Sadat or to save the emperor of Ethiopia when he was facing danger for a long time. Those agents should take the lesson, however, they will not learn until there is no chance for reviewing their attitudes. I warn them today and affirm to them that that day is inevitably coming because this nation has the right to live between the ocean and the Gulf in dignity, pride, and high spirits; and to exercize its right and livelihood under the sun. This nation was not created by Americans nor by those kings and traitors; it was created by God. God's will to be challenged!

We are a nation that wants to live in dignity. We do not want to invade America; we do not want to invade Europe; we do not want to cross seas or oceans. They are the ones who planted a Zionist camp in the heart of the Arab nation. This is rejected. We do not want an alien state, whether its nationality be Israeli or Martian, in the heart of the Arab nation. This is a racist, alien, aggressive state armed with atomic weapons constituing a threat to the future of the Arab nation. Worse still is the case of the Arabs that have recognized the existence of this camp that is armed with atomic weapons, hostile to the Arab nation, in contradiction with us in everything, bearing a grudge against us, and racist. This is an aggressive camp; how can we accept its recognition?

Even if all evidence indicates that Palestine is the land of the Israelis, we would not accept this from security point of view. From security point of view, this entity must be destroyed; even if David came with his sacred prestige, we would reject the entity; we would reject it if only for reasons of national security. [applause]

If the world wants to show sympathy for the Jews, let it give them room anywhere. Let America give them the state of Alaska to live in. If the Jews are persecuted, let the world lift their persecution of Jews! We will never accept an alien state amid the Arab world because it constitutes a danger to us. This state is an atomic state, and it can live only in war, only by destroying us.

These words are meant for Egypt. They were said about the Egyptian regime, which is now in a difficult and embarassing situation. There is nothing called peace with the Zionist camp. There is a war, a repeated war against the Arab nation. Therefore, we cannot possibly allow somebody to sharpen a knife to slaughter us. We are watching how the knife is being sharpened in the Dimona reactor in order to destroy us. Are we going to wait until the Israelis destroy us with their nuclear weapons which are being manufactured in Dimona? And how can we accept an Arab regime that asks us to recognize this? How can we accept Arab regimes that recognize an Arab regime that has recognized the Israelis?

From now on we are going to practice our right to defend our security, our existence, the more so since our masses have become victorious in Lebanon over the Phalangists who are allied with the Israelis; they have scored a victory over the American forces, the NATO forces; the Lebanese National Army has joined the popular forces and everyone has been obliged to obey popular will. The Palestinian revolution has triumphed over the reneging, defeatist trend [applause]

Our security has been strengthened, and our morale is high because of these victories scored by our Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian masses. [revolutionary slogans chants]

On this occasion I extend an invitation to my brother, Hafiz al-Asad [applause] to the meeting of the Council of the Presidency of the Union of Arab Republics [majlis ri'asat ittihad al-jumhuriyat al-arabiyah] and to proclaim the restoration of the union's constitution and the restoration of the union. [applause] We must discuss the situyation of a member of the Union of Arab Republics, namely Egypt. [revolutionary slogan chants]

On this pan-Arab occasion I address myself to the 25,000 Syrian brothers living on the Libyan territory to tell them: You are Arab Libyan citizens; you have the same duties as Libyans and what is ours is yours. [applause and chants] As from today, 8 March, no Syrian shall be treated as a foreigner or even as an Arab from outside Libya. [applause and chants] As from today, you are like Libyans with regard to power, wealth and weapons. All the slogans in the Jamahiriyah, applied in Libya, apply to you. A house belongs to whoever lives in it; the land belongs to you all; he who produces consumes, and wage-earners are partners. [Green Book slogans] [applause]

Syrians, from today, are partners of Libyans with regard to power, wealth and weapons on Libyan territory. [applause] This means that he who wants to reside permanently in his country, Libya, then the house will be his; he who wants land, the land belongs to all, and each of you must exploit it with his own efforts in order to satisfy his needs. This means that the Syrian workers, the wage-earners will become as from now partners in production. [applause] He who produces, consumes his production. [applause] this means also that [Al-Qadhdhafi stops for long, loud chanting of slogans: Long live Syria] a Syrian who becomes needy will receive social security, just like any libyan; it means that membership of the people's congresses, people's committees and people's bureaus abroad, and the revolutionary committees will be open to them on equal footing with your Libyan brothers. [chant praising Al-Qadhdhafi]

The children of Syrians will enter military and civilian colleges, just like the Libyans. [chants] You are called on to train with arms and to carry arms in defense of the Jamahiriyah, which is your country and your refuge; there is no difference between it and Syria. [long applause] You must also be ready to defend this Jamahiriyah, which is your country, just as the Libyan people must be ready to defend Syria, which is its country. [applause]

A new unionist bridge began to be built on the glorious 8th of March; another of the Arab union roads was built today on the occasion of the glorious 8th of March [applause] A massive step along the road to the unity of the masses of the Arab nation was made between the Arab Syrian and Libyan masses today; a new scope of the future of the masses of the Arab nation appeared today, the glorious 8th of March. [applause] A fresh defeat is inflicted on the secessionist forces on the 8th of March, the day when secession was destroyed in Syria. With these practical unionist steps we confer on the 8th of March its pan-Arab, unionist meaning, when secession, isolationism and regionalism were destroyed. [applause]

Greetings, on a day like this, to the heroes of the Syrian Army on the 8th of March [applause]; to Hafiz al-Asad, who was at the head of these heroes; to the Syrian people, standing their ground; and to the gallant Syrian Army. We are with it in its battle, side by side, with blood, sweat, tears, sacrifices. It is the glorious battle of the Arab nation, the battle of the Arab masses, the battle of building an Arab future. Forward, brothers in Syria, in Libya, in Egypt, to realize the unity of the Arab nation. [words indistinct — background chants] by continuing the unionist tide in order to take a fresh step along the road to unifying the great Arab nation. Glory to the great Arab nation. Death to the enemies of this eternal nation. Victory to this great nation. Death to agents. Death to the secessionists. Death to the coward regionalists. Death to the Israelis. Death to the racist imperialists. Victory to the peoples. Victory to the great Arab nation. Forward. [chants]

Further Reportage on Bulgaria's Zhivkov's Visit

Three Cooperation Agreements Signed

LD081646 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The signing took place in Tripoli this morning of three cooperation agreements between the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the People's Republic of Bulgaria covering judicial, civilian, trade, criminal, and family matters and facilitating the granting of entry and exist visas, equation of certificates and other educational diplomas.

The agreements were signed by brother Abu Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the General People's Committee for Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation, on the Libyan side; and by Petur Mladinov, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo and Bulgarian foreign minister, on the Bulgarian side.

The signing also took place of the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Joint Libyan Arab-Bulgarian Committee. The minutes cover agreement on cooperation in finance, banking, oil, trade exchange, industry, agriculture, energy, construction, and joint ventures.

The minutes were signed for Libya by Musa Abu Furaywah, secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy and Light Industries, and on the Bulgarian side, by Khristo Khristov, minister of foreign trade.

Al-Qadhdhafi Statement on Zhivkov Visit

LD081619 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The commander of the revolution has made a statement to the press delegation accompanying the Bulgarian president, Todor Zhivkov, in which he affirmed the determination of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and Bulgaria to develop the relations of cooperation existing between their two friendly countries. He said the meeting I had with our friend Zhivkov was an important meeting on the road of the development of cooperation and that every time we meet, we complete yet another stage on the road of cooperation between our two countries which are bound together by a strong strategic bond.

The commander of the revolution added: We have met with friends. This visit has enabled us to develop and promote relations of cooperation. We are pleased with this development.

With regard to the international situation, the brother commander said that Todor Zhivkov's visit has enabled us to exchange views over the disturbing international situation. We have expressed the need to combine our efforts to achieve peace in the world and to face up to imperialism in order to protect this peace and thereby create a favorable atmosphere for prosperity and progress.

In conclusion, he greeted the friendly Bulgarian people.

Al-Qadhdhafi Sees Zhivkov Depart

LD081626 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Todor Zhivkov, secretary general of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Council

of State, left Tripoli this morning at the end of his 3-day friendly and official visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The Bulgarian chairman and his delegation were given a big send off. The brother commander of the revolution headed those who bade them farewell. Others present were Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the armed forces; Major Al-Khuwayldi Al-Humaydi; Dr Miftah Al-Usta 'Umar, secretary of the General People's Congress; the assistant secretary of the General People's Congress; the secretary and members of the General People's Committee; heads of the diplomatic corps in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah; the Secretary of the People's Committee of the Tripoli Municipality; members of the Bulgarian Embassy and the Bulgarian community in the Jamahiriyah.

Todor made a statement to JANA in which he praised the results of his visit and his meeting with the commander of the revolution. He said that the visit and the agreements signed between the two countries give impetus to widening the scope of cooperation between our two countries in all fields.

He praised the friendly relations between the Jamahiriyah and Bulgaria affirming that the visit will bolster cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

In conclusion, he expressed the gratitude and appreciation of his delegation and of himself for the warm welcome they received in the Jamahiriyah wishing the Libyan Arab people further progress and prosperity on the road of building the Jamahiriyah.

Joint Communique on Visit

LD082239 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Mar (JANA) — Joint communique issued in Tripoli and Sofia at the end of the cordial and official visit of the Bulgarian head of state to the Jamahiriyah.

A joint communique was released today in Tripoli and Sofia at the end of the cordial and official visit of Mr Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] and chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria. Following is the text of the communique:

At the invitation of the leader of the great 1 September Revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Todor Zhivkov, secretary general of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, paid an official and cordial visit to Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah from 6 to 8 March 1984.

The distinguished guest was warmly welcomed in demonstration of the depth of the strong friendship and effective solidarity between the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

Talks were held between Col Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi and Todor Zhivkov in an atmosphere of friendship. They touched upon the comprehensive relations of bilateral cooperation and the means of strengthening and developing them for the benefit of relations between the two peoples. A review was also made of international issues of mutual interest and international import.

In this regard the two sides stressed the great importance of the meetings between the two leaders for the sake of developing and expanding relations between the friendly peoples. They noted with great satisfaction the successful and fruitful cooperation in various fields and affirmed their determination to coordinate efforts in order to widen and deepen this cooperation for the benefit of the two peoples in the future.

The two sides highly appreciate the work of the joint Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah-Bulgarian Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation and affirm their intention to use every possible means to develop these relations in their mutual interest.

Reviewing the current international situation, the leader of the great 1 September Revolution, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the general secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Todor Zhivkov, expressed their profound concern over the deterioration of the international situation and the increasing threat toworld peace resulting from the adventurous course of the United States of America and the NATO alliance which aims at military supremacy and is undermining the principle of equality and security for all. They condemn this course which threatens humanity with a nuclear catastrophe. The two sides declared their stance against NATO alliance plans to deploy American missiles in Western Europe which constitute a grave danger to the peoples of the world, the peoples of Europe and the peoples of the Mediterranean Sea and North Africa, and especially the Jamahiriyah following deployment of the nuclear missiles at Comiso base in Sicily.

The two sides confirmed tthat the most important issues facing mankind are halting the arms race and ending military interference in regional conflicts by the United States and some NATO countries and their establishment of military bases in the Arab region, Africa and other parts of the world, a matter that causes direct tension in international relations.

Concerning this, both sides support the efforts of peace-loving countries to spare the world the horrors of war and destruction, especially the positive initiatives included in the political statement issued by Warsaw Pact countries in January 1983. Both sides believe that the countries that own nuclear weapons can reach an agreement to limit such weapons based on the principle of equality and security for all. In this respect, Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah supports the proposals made by the socialist countries at the Stockholm conference, which make a positive contribution to the achievement of confidence-building and security measures in Europe and to the adoption of effective measures for disarmament. Both sides support the USSR and the socialist countries in their demand for the return to the security situation in Europe that existed prior to the deployment of American nuclear missiles in Western Europe, so as to create suitable conditions for the resumption of the Geneva talks.

Both sides confirmed that the security and peace of the Mediterranean is closely linked with that of Europe and they call for the Mediterranean to become a region of peace and cooperation free of all foreign military bases.

Both sides confirmed the importance of the unification and cohesion of all the revolutionary, democratic, progressive and anti-imperialist forces and stressed the importance of the establishment of a broad popular front to confront U.S. imperialism and abort its aggressive line.

Both sides confirmed the importance of the role played by the nonaligned in the reduction of tension in the world and in the struggle against imperialism and colonialism in its old and new faces, racial discrimination and Zionism, and for the consolidation of national independence, peace and social progress. In this context Chairman Zhivkov expressed appreciation of the role and efforts of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in this movement.

The two sides reviewed the explosive situation in the Arab region resulting from the Zionist occupation of Arab land and the continuing aggression against the Arab nation. They strongly condemned this aggression which is backed by U.S. imperialism. They also condemned the strategic cooperation agreement between the Zionist enemy and America considering that it is aimed at dealing a blow to the Arab nation, controlling its resources, consolidating U.S. military presence in the rgeion and Zionist expansion in the Arab territories. It constitutes a direct threat to the security fo Syria and Lebanon and aims to impose hegemony and capitulation on qthe region. Both sides confirmed their support for the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people and renewed their rejection of all the plans and initiatives of liquidation such as the Camp David agreements, the Reagan plan, and others.

Both sides believe that in order to achieve final victory for the liberation and return (of the Palestinian people to their homeland) and the establishment of their independent Palestinian state on their own land, the Palestinian people have the right to pursue all methods of struggle, including armed struggle.

The two sides express their firm support for the struggle of the Lebanese people for an urgent, complete unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist forces of invasion from their territory, in order to attain their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The two sides hailed the splendid historical victory scored by the struggle of the progressive forces in Lebanon by succesfully scrapping the submission agreement imposed by the American and Zionist forces of aggression on Lebanon on 17 May 1983 and also forcing the American and NATO occupation forces to leave Lebanese territory. The two sides also expressed their support and backing for the steadfastness of the Syrian Arab Republic in facing up to threats and provocations aimed at harming its position of struggle.

The two sides affirm that the issue of the unity of all the Arab states and the unity of the PLO take on at this time exceptional importance, so that they be able to stand their ground in the face of the coordinated pressure against them by imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria has expressed its appreciation of the steps and efforts of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah for the realization of Arab unity.

The two sides stressed the need to strengthen the relations of cooperation and alliance between the socialist community and the Arab nation.

For its part, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah highly appreciates the role of the socialist community member states in maintaining and consolidating peace in order to secure detente and disarmament and to expand international cooperation, and also the support of these countires for the just cause of the Arab nation, the developing countries and the national liberation movements.

The Arab Libyan side also highly appreciates the constructive principled policies of the People's Republic of Bulgaria aimed at backing up peace in Europe and the world, at turning the Balkan area into a zone of neighborliness, understanding and cooperation, and creating a nuclear-free Balkan region.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria condemned the American military provocations, the economic blockade and propaganda campaign against the Jamahiriyah, and the conspiracies hatched by American imperialism, together with certain reactionary regimes, against the security and peace of the Arab Libyan people. It expressed its support for the efforts of the Libyan people and their endeavor to preserve national independence and territorial integrity against all actions and threats especially in the Gulf of Sidra.

In reviewing the situation in Africa, the two sides expressed their deep concern over the increasing intervention of imperialism in the affairs of the states of the continent, and the widening of conspiracies and acts of aggression against the unity, independence and sovereignty of the African states that follow an anticolonial policy. In this respect, they stressed the importance of the OAU as a significant factor in the struggle for peace, independence and progress, against imperialism, neocolonialism, racism and all the aspects of imperialist domination and pressure.

The two sides strongly condemned attempts to divide the African states and to weaken the OAU. The two sides expressed their solidarity with peoples for freedom and independence. They condemned the imperialist policy of domination in all its aspects, and the policy of colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and apartheid. They have voiced their firm support for the right of the people of Namibia to independence, under the leadership of its sole legitimate representative, the South-West Africa People's organization, calling for the implementation of the UN resolutions on Namibia.

The two sides condemned imperialist intervention in Chad's internal affairs, calling for the withdrawal of colonialist and reactionary forces from this country and stressing the need for solving the conflict by way of a dialogue between the factions involved in the conflict on the basis of the OAU resolutions.

The two sides also expressed their solidarity with the peoples of South and Central America in the struggle for their freedom and independence. They strongly condemned the U.S. military invasion of the Island of Grenada in violation of international laws and norms, and they emphasized the great danger resulting from the policy of terrorism practiced by American imperialism against smaller nations. They also reaffirmed their full solidarity with the struggle of the people of Nicaragua to maintain its independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and revolutionary achievements.

The two sides stressed that colonialist states must pay for the damages and losses they have caused to the peoples they colonized, and emphasized the right of these peoples to ask for just compensation.

The two sides stressed the need to put an end to the unfair exploitation of the wealth of developing countries, and the need for a new international economic order on the basis of equality among peoples.

Both Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Todor Zhivkov highly appreciated the results of their talks, expressing their confidence that this visit will help in developing and deepening the bilateral relations of friendship and continuous cooperation in various fields, for the good of the consolidation of peace, security and social progress in the world.

There has been, during this visit, an exchange of the documents of ratification of the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed by the two countries in Sofia on 21 January 1983. A number of documents and minutes of meetings were also signed in the following areas: judicial cooperation, social security, mutual validation of scientific diplomas and easing of visa requirements for citizens of the two countries.

Mr Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee and head of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, expressed his deep thanks to the Arab Libyan people and its leadership for the warm welcome and extreme hospitality showed to him during his visit. He extended an invitation to the brother leader of the great 1 September Revolution, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to pay an official and friendly visit to the People's Republic of Bulgaria. He accepted with pleasure.

AFP: Former Envoy Alleges Plot Against Bendjedid

NC091142 Paris AFP in English 1132 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 9 (AFP) — Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi ordered the assassination of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid after a "violent row" between the two men in Tripoli, the former Libyan ambassador to Jordan, 'Aziz 'Umar Shunayb has claimed.

Mr Shunayb's claim was reported in the opposition magazine *SALVATION*, published by the Front for Libyan Salvation, which is based here.

The report did not say when the incident occurred but the circumstances it cites suggest that it might have been in 1982, after a border dispute between the two countries.

According to Mr Shunayb, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi told his head of military information at the time, Mustafa al-Kharrubi, to put time bombs set to explode over Tunisian airspace in President Bendjedid's plane. The explosion would have been disguised as an accident.

Mr Shunayb said the operation did not take place because Mr al-Kharrubi refused to carry out the Libyan leader's orders.

The former ambassador resigned from his post last July, claiming that he had been ordered to implement a Libyan plot against King Husayn of Jordan.

MAURITANIA

Haydala Reshuffles Cabinet To Increase Efficiency

AB082150 Paris AFP in French 1835 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Nouakchott, 8 Mar (AFP) — According to observers in Nouakchott on Thursday, the decision by Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Ould Haydala to combine the posts of head of state with that of prime minister and minister of defense comes from his desire to increase the efficiency of the Mauritanian Government, 10 days after the recognition by Nouakchott of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic.

This recognition was not unanimously accepted within the government and within the Military Committee for National Salvation, observers in the Mauritanian capital also note. Apparently certain soldiers are afraid that the strengthening of ties with the Polisario and Algeria may discredit Mauritania's neutrality in the Western Sahara conflict since it signed the peace agreements with the Polisario in August 1979. It will be recalled that after these agreements were signed, Mauritania withdrew from the portion of Western Sahara it was occupying.

No official reasons have been given for the reshuffle; neither has there been any explanation for the removal of the former prime minister and minister of defense, Colonel Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Taya and of the minister of the interior, Colonel Ahmedou Ould Abdallah.

It is still difficult to ascertain whether the changes that took place are directly linked with the Mauritanian decision to recognize the SDAR or [words indistinct] influence within the team in power. Besides, observers say, the former prime minister has been appointed chief of defense staff which seems to dismiss the existence of strong differences between him and the head of state.

SUDAN

Foreign Minister on Al-Qadhdhafi's Statements

JN081834 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1712 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Mar (SUNA) — Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak has said that the recent statements by Al-Qadhdhafi have removed the false mask which Al-Qadhdhafi

uses to cover up his deeds. He added that these statements are obvious proof of Al-Qadhdhafi's aggressive intentions against Sudan, and are considered a violation of international and regional charters and norms. This came in a press statement he made today commenting on Al-Qadhdhafi's statements on the anniversary of the establishment of the Libyan republic.

In these statements, Al-Qadhdhafi said that he was going to liberate Sudan inch by inch, and then Egypt, by means of what he called the popular revolution and his support of those who plot against Sudan's unity.

Minister Mubarak pointed out Al-Qadhdhafi's statements affirming that they conflict with the Arab League Charter and the links to Arabism and Islam. He explained that Sudan's permanent delegate to the Arab League has been instructed to present a memorandum to the League's General Secretariat exposing Al-Qadhdhafi's practices.

He said: We asked the Arab League General Secretariat to circulate this memorandum to all Arab countries because this memorandum confirms our reply to Libya's complaint in which it accused Sudan of plotting against it.

He added that Sudan had replied to the Libyan complaint, refuting all its clauses. He disclosed that this complaint is a Libyan attempt to cover up its plotting against Sudan and to deceive world public opinion in preparation for a larger conspiracy.

The Sudanese minister concluded by saying: Al-Qadhdhafi's latest statements prove our viewpoint.

Chevron Director on Company's Works in Sudan

JN081647 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Mar (SUNA) — (?Connel), director of the Sudan Chevron Company, has affirmed that the company will resume its works in the Al-Mujallad area next week.

In a statement to SUNA, (?Connel) said that the company is convinced that the Sudanese Government had made and is still making sincere efforts to settle matters and achieve peace in the area. He added: The government will enable us to extend our operations up to the (?Pantio) area and its southern parts during the coming phase. He reiterated that the company will return to work in southern (?Kardvan), (Ad-Dandar), and in other areas of the company's contract. He said that the company made this decision in consultation with the Ministry of Energy and Mining. He noted that the majority of experts agreed to return to work.

(?Connel) explained that a high-level delegation comprising four officials from the Shell Company and two from the Chevron Company will arrive in Khartoum on 10 March 1984 to inspect the Chevron works in Sudan and to meet with the Chevron directors, particularly since the Shell Company has purchased 25 percent of the shares of the Sudan Chevron company.

He affirmed that work in preparing designs for the pipes is continuing. These designs are being made by the (?Sinam Brojti) Company.

He also affirmed that works at the (?Marsi) Numaryi port are continuing and have not ceased.

TUNISIA

Mzali Greets Finland's Sorsa on Arrival

LD081331 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Finnish Prime Minister Kalevi Sorsa and Mrs Sorsa arrived in Tunis a short while ago on a 2-day official visit to Tunisia leading a government delegation comprising 30 members, which include the secretary of state for foreign affairs; foreign trade officials; the chairman of the Confederation of Finnish Trade Unions; Ali Abdallah, head of the Islamic community in Finland, in addition to 12 managing directors of Finnish firms.

The Finnish guest was welcomed at the airport by Mohamed Mzali, prime minister and minister of interior, and Mrs Mzali, as well as by members of the government and the Destourian Socialist Party Political Bureau, and a number of members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Tunis.

CHAD

France's Guy Penne Briefs Habre on Africa Tour

AB081841 Paris AFP in French 1655 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 8 Mar (AFP) — Guy Penne, special adviser to President Francois Mitterrand on African affairs who arrived today in Ndjamena for a few hour's visit, was received in audience by the Chadian head of state, Hissein Habre.

Mr Penne, who has just made a tour of Tanzania and Mozambique, told reporters that during his 1-hour talk with President Habre he "briefed" the Chadian president on talks he had on southern Africa. He added that he also raised other issues of interest to Africa before the OAU summit in Conakry during the audience.

Mr Penne recalled France's position on the Chad problem, stating that as far as the French Government is concerned, Chad's integrity and sovereignty should be respected — "all this through national reconciliation."

The presidential adviser declined to specify if his visit is in relation to the next visit of the French prime minister, Pierre Mauroy, to Chad, scheduled for the end of this month as part of an African tour.

Mr Penne is scheduled to return to Paris this afternoon.

Libyans Deport Girls, Force Men To Join Legion

AB072130 Paris AFP in French 1835 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 7 Mar (AFP) — About 1,200 Chadian girls living in northern Chad and held there by supporters of former President Goukouni Oueddei and his Libyan allies have been "deported" to Libya, while 2,000 men have been "forced to take arms" to serve in the Libyan Islamic Legion since July 1983, the CHADIAN PRESS AGENCY, ATP, claimed in Ndjamena today.

The ATP, which quotes "the latest accounts of those who fled the Libyan Bantustan," states that the administration in the BET (Borku, Ennedi, and Tibesti) area is run according to the method of the Libyan "people's committees" under the leadership of Libyans. Arabic is imposed as the only language used at work and in schools, adds ATP, which generally reflects the official view, and cultural programs are drawn only from the "Green Book" of the leader of the Libyan revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

ATP further indicates that since June 1983, the "invading" Libyan forces have "methodically" reinforced their military installations in the major towns of northern Chad.

According to the agency, 5,000 Libyans and 3,000 mercenaries of different nationalities are stationed in Bardai, Fada, and Faya, and laminated [plastifiees] air strips for heavy-duty transport planes have been constructed in Fada and Faya.

"Chadian flags have been burned and replaced by Libyan flags, while the Chadian national anthem has been banned and public buildings and structures have been painted green — the symbolic color for hegemony — and the CFA franc (the Chadian currency) has been replaced by the Libyan dinar," ATP explains, adding that "all signs of Chadian sovereignty have been cancelled in the BET area."

CONGO

PCT-CPSU Cooperation Agreement Announced

AB081835 Paris AFP in French 1352 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Brazzaville, 8 Mar (AFP) — The CPSU and the Congolese Labor Party [PCT] have just signed in Brazzaville a cooperation agreement related to the training of cadres and to the exchange of experience between the two parties. This has been announced in the Congolese capital.

The agreement also makes provisions for the organization of mutual scientific symposia.

ZAIRE

Soviet Ambassador Marchuk Concludes Tour, Comments

AB071505 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] First State Commissioner Kengo wa Dondo today received in audience Soviet Ambassador Ivan Ivanovich Marchuk, who bade him farewell at the end of a fruitful diplomatic service of 7 years in Africa, including 4 and ½ years in Zaire. The cooperation between our two countries concerns particularly the economic, cultural, and commercial fields.

[Begin Marchuk recording] I have paid a farewell visit to First State Commissioner Kengo wa Dondo. We briefly examined the relations between the Soviet Union and Zaire. We noted that they are good and that they are developing normally. We also noted a desire by both sides to deepen and develop these relations.

During my stay here, we determined the line of action to be followed. I know especially that the Zairian side is very much interested in economic cooperation. I believe that there are prospects of developing our relations in this field. During my stay we also had the pleasure of signing a cultural agreement in Moscow. Our cultural relations are developing very well. I must say that a small number of students leave for Moscow every year. I do not know how many there are now, but there are dozens of Zairian students in Moscow. Every year, we generally offer to the Executive Council 43 scholarships, which are not always used; but I believe, nevertheless, that this constitutes a good contribution to the training of Zairian national cadres.

We also have commercial relations which will surely develop. Generally, as I said in the beginning, we are very pleased with our relations with your beautiful country. [end recording]

GAMBIA

Government Announces Further Austerity Measures

AB081215 Dakar PANA in English 1159 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Banjul, 8 Mar (GINS/PANA) — The Gambia Government has announced further austerity measures to curb the drain on foreign exchange. The latest, a freeze on visits abroad by government officials, was announced this (?morning) by President D.K. Jawara, following a cabinet meeting on Wednesday. Last week the dalasi was devalued by 25 percent as part of an adjustment to stimulate a depressed economy.

The Gambia economy has been badly hit by recurrent drought, low commodity prices, a high import bill and a drastic fall in agricultural production.

GHANA

Ivorian Agriculture Minister Leads Delegation Visit

AB081625 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 8 March 84

[Text] A four-man government delegation from the Ivory Coast led by the minister of agricultural, water, and forestry, Mr Denis Bra Kanon, has arrived in Accra for a 2-day visit. It will hold talks with the government on economic matters.

Mr Kanon told newsmen that exchange of visits by farmers of both countries has afforded them the opportunity to discuss the formation of cooperative movements and the exchange of agricultural experts. He repeated that international barriers cannot divide the two countries from adopting a common strategy in determining the prices of their agricultural products.

Welcoming the delegation, the secretary of agriculture, Mr John Ndeburgre, said there is the need for both countries to come together and adopt a pragmatic approach to determining a fair world cocoa price.

The welcoming delegation included the Provisional National Defense Council coordinating secretary, Mr P.V. Obeng, and Mr Harry Dodoo, chief executive of the Ghana Cocoa Marketing Board.

Government Displeased With OAU Spending on Meetings

AB090756 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] The OAU ministerial conference has approved an amount of $25 million for the year 1984-85. Seventy million dollars have also been voted for the Liberation Committee.

This was disclosed to newsmen in Accra by the secretary for foreign affairs, Obed Asamoah, after leading a four-member delegation to the ordinary session of the OAU ministerial council in Addis Ababa. Dr Asamoah said Ghana was not happy about how funds put into organizing OAU meetings are used. He said suggestions were made [words indistinct].

Dr Asamoah stated that some member states owe the organization over $400 million. He said a commission of debts has been set up to ensure that arrears are paid. The conference thanked the interim secretary general, Peter Onu, for his efforts in organizing food aid to drought-hit African states.

On Afro-Arab cooperation, Dr Asamoah said the conference called for the reconstitution of the commission which was set up to tackle the issue.

MALI

Traore Receives Message From Mauritania's Haydala

AB081630 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Excerpt] General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People and president of the republic, received the Mauritanian minister of mines and industry, Lieutenant Colonel Anne Babaly, this morning at 0900. The Mauritanian minister delivered a message from President Khouna Ould Haydala to President Moussa Traore. The solidification of brotherly cooperation and friendly relations between the Republic of Mali and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the strengthening of our common struggle against drought were the issues that were discussed at length at this meeting.

President Khouna Ould Haydala officially charged the Mauritanian minister with informing his brother and friend, President Moussa Traore, of the recent decision by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to recognize the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic.

NIGERIA

SMC Meeting Opens; Draft Decrees Considered

AB081258 Lagos NAN in English 1245 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Lagos, Mar 8 (NAN) — The Supreme Military Council (SMC) began its meeting in Lagos today to consider for approval a number of draft decrees intended to facilitate the attainment of the objectives of the present administration.

The degrees include the political parties (dissolution) decree, the exchange control (anti-sabotage) decree, and the banking (freezing of accounts) decree. Others are the mass media (circulation of false reports) prohibition decree, the robbery and firearms (special provisions) decree, and the recovery of public property (special military tribunals) decree. The decrees were referred to the SMC for approval by the National Council of State which met in Lagos on Tuesday.

The SMC meeting is being presided over by the head of state, Maj Gen Muhammadu Buhari.

Repayment Sought From OAU for Operation in Chad

AB081208 Lagos NAN in English 1147 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Lagos, Mar 8 (NAN) — Nigeria spent about 59.8 million naira on behalf of the OAU in its peace-keeping operation in Chad, the minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, said in Lagos yesterday.

Dr Gambari told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that Nigeria made a representation on the issue to the recently-concluded 40th ordinary ministerial council meeting of the OAU in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He said that the council referred the matter to the organisation's next summit scheduled to take place in Conakry, Guinea, later in the year.

The minister however said that the Federal Military Government was prepared to cooperate with the organisation in working out a repayment schedule convenient to both sides.

Dr Gambari said that the OAU was in a "precarious financial position," and that many member-states had defaulted on their financial obligation for over 10 years. "This poor financial position of the OAU calls to question the degree of commitment of member-states of the organisation to its goals and objectives," the minister said.

He said that the ministerial conference had directed its committee on financial contributions to review its operations so that these arrears could be taken into consideration. Dr Gambari said that the committee was also directed to ensure that its scale of assessments conformed to that used by the United Nations.

Foreign Teacher Linked to Religious Disturbances

AB081245 Lagos NAN in English 1220 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Maiduguri, Mar 8 (NAN) — An expatriate teacher has been linked with the recent religious disturbances in some post-primary schools in Borno, the state's military governor, Maj Gen Abubakar Waziri, said yesterday.

Speaking on an NTA [Nigerian Television Authority] Maiduguri programme, the governor said that the expatriate teacher was found to be responsible for the distribution of "highly provocative leaflets." He said that the expatraite belonged to an organisation in the country with 40 members. Maj Gen Waziri said that the expatriate had been handed over to the NSO [National Security Organisation] for interrogation and would soon be repatriated.

The state has witnessed a series of religious disturbances in some post-primary institutions which led to the closure of five of them.

ANGOLA

U.S. Conditions on Establishing Relations Rejected

MB090956 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Elisio de Figueiredo, the Angolan ambassador to the United Nations, reiterated once again the arrangements made in relation to the withdrawal of the South African troops from the territory they occupy in the south of our country, as well as the Namibia independence. In an interview granted in Lusaka some days ago to the *FINANCIAL MAIL* newspaper of Johannesburg, the Angolan diplomat said that Angola insists on the withdrawal of the South African troops from Angola, an event that is occurring now, and on UN Resolution 435 on Namibia. He also said that real peace will only be achieved after the fulfillment of these two points and after the South African support to the UNITA criminal bands ceases.

Elisio de Figueiredo criticized the linkage between the solution of the Namibian problem and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, and he added that the United States should refrain from making any comment. When asked about the possible development of relations between Angola and the United States, he said that the People's Republic of Angola is not going to accept the previous conditions proposed by Washington to make such a move.

Tanzanian, Cape Verdian Envoys Deliver Messages

MB090930 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Yesterday afternoon the president of the republic received in separate audiences Frederick Rutakyamirwa, Tanzania ambassador, and Aguinaldo Lisbon Ramos, Cape Verde ambassador, in the national MPLA Headquarters.

In the audience granted to the Tanzania ambassador, President dos Santos received a message from Julius Nyerere, chairman of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi revolutionary party and president of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The Cape Verde ambassador also delivered a message from the president of the Republic of Cape Verde, Aristides Pereira, to President dos Santos.

SONANGOL Head Says 200,000 Barrels of Oil Produced

MB081548 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The current oil production in the People's Republic of Angola is over 200,000 barrels. This has recently been disclosed by Herminio Escorcio, director general of the National Angolan Fuel Company [SONANGOL], to the fuel company's information magazine. This substantial increase in 1983, as compared to the previous years, was mainly due to the successes achieved in the [words indistinct] of holes [words indistinct] while production achieved at the Takula field in Cabinda, Herminio Escorcio. In his interview, which was also published in yesterday's edition of the *JORNAL DE ANGOLA* newspaper, the director general of SONANGOL added that [words indistinct] prospects of oil production [words indistinct] is expected that new fields will become productive in 1985, namely in (Mumbi), Cabinda, and (Palangue) at Block No 3, which will naturally raise the present production level.

Regarding the ongoing negotiations for the acquisition of the Luanda refinery by the Angolan state, Herminio Escorcio said that as a result of the negotiations it has been decided to form a joint refinery enterprise in which our government will hold 60 percent of the capital and the remaining 40 percent will be held by (?Petrofina).

With regard [words indistinct] the possibility of extension of the Luanda refinery in the framework of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference regional self-sufficiency project, Herminio Escorcio said that all possibilities in this regard [words indistinct] economically committed.

FAPLA Claims 5 'Bandits' Killed in Benguela

MB091002 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0900 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Angolan defense and security forces are engaged in the destruction of the rebel pockets of resistance that are still operating in the bush. In Benguela five more bandits were killed by the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola during actions that resulted in the release of 13 peasants who had been taken from their homes and the capture of a considerable amount of weapons and ammunition.

UNITA Claims 225 Enemy Casualties 28 Feb-5 Mar

PA091341 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1304 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Lisbon, 9 Mar (EFE) — The rebel movement National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) has announced here that it inflicted 215 deaths on the regular Angolan troops and 10 on the Cubans supporting it in actions that took place between 28 February and 5 March.

UNITA added in a communique released in Lisbon last night that it took 18 Angolan soldiers prisoner, destroyed a large amount of military materiel, and "liberated" more than 13,000 persons.

The actions outlined by UNITA took place in nine provinces of the southern, central, and eastern part of the country, especially in Cuanza Sul and Malange.

The most oustanding actions by the organization that is struggling against the Luanda regime were attacks on a military post, a regular army column, and a fleet of vehicles of the "Diamong" diamond company.

MOZAMBIQUE

Communique on Signing of RSA Nonaggression Pact

MB081845 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1830 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Communique issued by the Presidency of the Republic of Mozambique — date not given]

[Text] The Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique and the Government of the Republic of South Africa announce that a nonaggression and good-neighborliness accord will be signed between His Excellency Samora Moises Machel, president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, and His Excellency Pieter W. Botha, prime minister of the Republic of South Africa, on the banks of Incomati River at the common border on 16 March 1984.

Chissano Comments on OAU Discussion of RSA Talks

MB081420 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Major General Joaquim Chissano, the Mozambique minister of foreign affairs, said that the OAU expressed sympathy and deep understanding for the Mozambique Government and people in their diplomatic efforts to safeguard and consolidate their independence and peace in southern Africa. The Mozambique diplomatic head was speaking last night just after his arrival from Addis Ababa, where he attended the 40th session of the OAU Council of Ministers. The Mozambique delegation which attended the meeting, besides participating actively in the debates of the agenda, made a report on the situation existing in southern Africa and the negotiations that are currently taking place in the region.

[Begin Chissano recording] During the Council of Ministers meeting we provided them with general information about our military and economic situation and, above all, the meaning of the recent talks with South Africa and the nonaggression pact that we intend to sign with South Africa. We informed them of this because we think we should not let our African friends remain ignorant nor let them speculate on these matters. Therefore, we gave them this information, which they appreciated very much. All the countries that have intervened spoke in a very positive manner, and no country spoke in a negative manner. [end recording]

Joaquim Chissano, the minister of foreign affairs, also said that he informed the OAU Council of Ministers about the situation caused by the natural disasters which struck our country.

France's Penne Leaves With Message From Machel

MB081655 Maputo Domestic Service in English 0430 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Guy Penne, French presidential adviser for African affairs, left Maputo last night for his country. Guy Penne granted an interview to the Radio Mozambique reporter at the Maputo international airport.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr Guy Penne, there have been a great number of political contacts between France and Mozambique through ministerial meetings either in Paris or Maputo. What is the meaning of these contacts in connection with the French policy toward Mozambique?

[Penne speaking in French fading into Portuguese translation] This means that soon after the French president determined how developing areas would be aided, during a restricted meeting of the Council of Ministers, he said that priority should be given to less developed countries, French-speaking countries, and he also gave special mention to the frontline states, particularly Mozambique and Angola. This guideline was decided upon 18 months ago by the president of the Republic. [end recording]

During his stay in Mozambique, the French presidential adviser for African affairs delivered a message from Francois Mitterand to President Samora Machel. Moreover, he is carrying a message from the Mozambique president to his French counterpart.

During his 48-hour stay in Maputo, Guy Penne met with several Mozambique ministers, namely Jacinto Veloso, minister in the presidency for economic affairs; Jose Carlos Lobo, minister of mineral resources; Rui Baltazar Alves, minister of finance; and Julio Carrilho, minister of public works. In these meetings the French presidential adviser for African affairs held talks on cooperation matters.

President Machel Meets With Nigeria's Envoy to UN

MB081625 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] The Mozambique leader has held talks in Maputo with Nigeria's ambassador to the United Nations, General Joseph Garba. President Samora Machel again expressed Mozambique's support for the Nigerian Government, led by General Muhammadu Buhari, and expressed a desire for closer relations between the two countries.

Minister Leaves for GDR Trade Fair, Contract Signings

MB081620 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Joaquim de Carvalho, minister of foreign trade, left Maputo last night for the GDR, where is is going to attend the Leipzig International Fair. Joaquim de Carvalho said that Mozambique is going to exhibit mainly timber, citrus fruit, mica products, and asbestos. During his stay in that socialist country, the minister of foreign trade will sign contracts with GDR firms within the framework of the existing cooperation agreements between the two countries.

NAMIBIA

Toivo Departs for Meeting With Nujoma in Lusaka

MB090741 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0727 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Windhoek, March 9, SAPA — The released SWAPO founder member, Mr Herman Toivo ja Toivo, and four other SWAPO members left Windhoek this morning to meet the SWAPO leader, Mr Sam Nujoma, in Lusaka.

The SWAPO delegation comprised the deputy president, Mr Hendrik Witbooi; the deputy national chairman, Mr Daniel Tjongarero; the secretary for foreign affairs, Mr Nico Bessinger; and a member of SWAPO's politburo, Mr Crispin Matongo.

The visit came at the invitation of Mr Nujoma who had expressed the wish to meet Mr ja Toivo "as soon as possible."

A small group of SWAPO supporters saw off the delegation.

Asked whether he was seeking any particular position in the SWAPO leadership, Mr ja Voivo told reporters at J.G. Strijdom Airport outside Windhoek that he would serve in any position that the organisation wanted him.

On the way to the airport, situated on the road to Gobabis, vehicles were stopped and searched for firearms.

Mr ja Toivo has been issued travel documents to visit Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Zambia.

SWAPO Struggle To Continue

MB091201 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Former SWAPO leader Mr Herman Toivo ja Toivo says SWAPO will continue its struggle in South-West Africa despite the cease-fire agreement between South Africa and Angola. Mr ja Toivo was addressing newsmen at Jan Smuts Airport this morning where, together with four other leading SWAPO members, he was in transit for a flight to the Zambian capital, Lusaka, where the delegation will hold talks with the present SWAPO leader, Sam Nujoma. Mr ja Toivo added that SWAPO was fighting in South-West Africa and not in Angola. Nujoma was also earlier reported to have said that SWAPO would continue its struggle in South-West Africa.

Mr ja Toivo this morning refused to answer questions by newsmen on the proposed talks with Nujoma. SAPA reported earlier that the visit to Lusaka arose at the invitation of Nujoma, who had expressed the wish to meet Mr ja Toivo as soon as possible. Mr ja Toivo was released from prison last week. Before his departure from Windhoek Airport early this morning, he told newsmen that he was prepared to serve in any position in SWAPO.

Nujoma Discusses Situation in Southern Africa

MB081950 Lusaka Voice of Namibia in English 1830 GMT 8 Mar 84

["Interview" with SWAPO President Sam Nujoma; live or recorded]

[Unidentified announcer] The struggle waged by SWAPO of Namibia and by the people of Namibia as a whole has now reached a crucial stage. Developments of the past few weeks have raised some questions as to whether southern Africa is heading to a zone of permanent peace. The Voice of Namibia here in Lusaka is much honored to have Comrade President of SWAPO Sam Nujoma in our studio, who will critically analyse the current situation in the wake of peace initiatives in the southern African region. Comrade President, comment on the recent pronouncements by the Boer regime that SWAPO is pouring hundreds of guerrilla fighters into Namibia from southern Angola. The Boers claim that they have crippled the military structure of People's Liberation Army of Namibia, PLAN. Asked by the Voice of Namibia on the allegations that SWAPO has infiltrated more than 800 guerrillas into Namibia recently, the president of SWAPO has this to say:

[Nujoma] In the first instance, it must be clearly undertood that it is not SWAPO or the Namibian people who are responsible for the South African regime's acts of aggression against the people of the Republic of Angola. That is very very clear. The aggression by the Boer regime against the people of Angola is simply because the People's Republic of Angola and its leader, Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, and the entire revolutionary Angolan people are committed towards freedom and independence of the African Continent in general, and Namibia in particular. That is the crime the People's Republic of Angola, in the eyes of the minority white regime of South Africa, has committed.

SWAPO has not infiltrated 200 combatants, and SWAPO does not fight in Angola. SWAPO fights inside Namibia for the liberation of Namibia and its people. Therefore, it must be clearly understood that the people of Namibia, who are oppressed by the minority white regime of Botha in South Africa, are resisting that colonial oppression of the Boers. They have nothing to do with the South African aggression in southern Angola. In the first instance, the Boers have no right to be in the Republic of Angola. They have no right whatsoever to carry out aggression which they are carrying out there. They must get out of the People's Republic of Angola.

The Pretoria minority white racist regime is basing its allegations against SWAPO on false information and its own propaganda. Therefore, here we can only say that as long as an inch of Namibia is occupied by the minority white regime of South Africa, the struggle against the Boer colonial domination over the African majority in Namibia (?will continue) [words indistinct]. Until South Africa agrees to a cease-fire and the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435, we [words indistinct] that if the other party, which is South Africa, does not want peace, we have no choice but to resist with vigor and determination, until our country is free and independent.

We support the peaceful efforts as agreed in Lusaka, and we will contribute to our maximum level towards a negotiated settlement. SWAPO will not be an obstacle towards disengagement of forces nor a cease-fire in Namibia. The resistance to South African colonial domination must continue. South Africa's repressive laws such as AG-9, AG-8, and so forth, Koevoet, and the so-called South-West Africa Territory Forces are empowered to shoot on sight, killing anybody, torture, arrest, detain, and harass the Namibian civilian population. We will never give up our resistance to white minority oppression until freedom and independence are achieved in our country.

Through the determination of the sons and daughters of Namibia, who are making great sacrifices on the battlefront and who are carrying out intensive political and diplomatic activities at the international level, aiming at mobilizing world public opinion in support of implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435, we believe that the minority white racist regime of Pretoria can be pressurized to accept implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435. However, we demand right now that if Pretoria honors its word by saying it wants peace, and it wants the war to end in Namibia, they must accept signing of a cease-fire right now, ending the war and brutal repression of the Namibian people and destruction of property. SWAPO will be forthcoming and ready to sign the cease-fire and also ready to contribute towards an overall peaceful solution to the Namibian problem.

Any puppet regime the Botha regime may attempt to impose on the Namibian people will end up in the same fiasco as happened to the so-called Democratic Turnhalle Alliance National Assembly and Minister's Council. The people of Namibia are prepared to resist South African colonial domination for the next 18 years, in order to ensure that genuine freedom and independence are achieved. The Boer regime will fail, as it has failed. Its strategy will not work. We warn the Boers, and we challenge them: Accept genuine implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435, but there must be free, fair, and democratic elections, controlled by the United Nations. This was their strategy earlier. It was worked out by the Western contact group, including the United States and the Boers themselves, and now they are trying to drop it and play maneuvers behind the scenes, in order to force a bantustan-type of government like those existing in Transkei and Bophuthatswana in South Africa. We say: Down with bantustans, down with the homelands, and long live the implementation of Resolution 435.

SWAPO Official Mueshihange Calls for OAU Support

EA071846 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1900 GMT 6 Mar 84

[SWAPO program]

[Text] SWAPO's secretary for foreign relations, Comrade Peter Mueshihange, has urged the OAU to lift up its commitment for the total liberation of Africa by sacrificing more of its financial and material resources in support of the liberation movements.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with the *ETHIOPIAN HERALD*, Comrade Mueshihange said SWAPO was convinced that as long as the racist regime in South Africa was allowed to (?live undisturbed), there would be no peace as well as political and economic stability or security in the continent. Comrade Mueshihange also noted that it was precisely because of this reality that SWAPO and the ANC have consistently waged their struggle to liquidate the fascist regime in Pretoria and dislodge and expel the occupation forces from Namibia.

Turning to the military struggle, the SWAPO foreign secretary pointed out that due to the determination of the SWAPO freedom fighters, racist South Africa has failed to dislodge SWAPO militarily from Namibia.

On the political situation in Namibia, Comrade Mueshihange said that it was well known to Namibians that it is only SWAPO that is committed to their true aspirations for the attainment of genuine independence; and, he said, there is no question and no comparison between SWAPO and any other group which was set up by the racist occupation regime.

SWAPO Terrorists Thought Heading for Botswana

MB090724 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] The security forces in eastern South-West Africa/Namibia are continuing the search for nine SWAPO terrorists who are thought to be trying to slip back into Botswana. The nine are the remainder of a group of 14 who infiltrated the eastern border region a week ago. Five of their number have been shot dead by the security forces. A police spokesman in Windhoek said, when asked if the security forces would go after the terrorists into Botswana, that hot-pursuit operations were not being considered.

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha Asks Botswana To Investigate SWAPO Moves

MB090637 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, has asked Botswana to instigate a full investigation into reports that SWAPO terrorists have for the first time entered South-West Africa from Botswana. On enquiry, Mr Botha said that he had been touch with the Botswana Government with a request to investigate the matter thoroughly. He had asked to be informed of the results of the investigation.

Defense Minister Malan Discusses Peace Initiatives

MB081526 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Defense Minister Magnus Malan says the peace initiative in South-West Africa, Mozambique, and Angola should not be seen as a weakening in South Africa's resolve not to bow to pressure from abroad. Opening the agricultural show at Bethal, he said the initiatives were a sincere move towards stabilizing the region as a prelude to a period of greater peace and prosperity.

General Malan added that defense expenditures and the length of national service would not be reduced because of the initiatives. He said a well-motivated and prepared defense force was the best guarantee for peace.

Gen Malan said that since SWAPO was clearly not respecting the agreement between South Africa and Angola, the terrorist organization would have to bear the brunt, in the operational area, of every means at the disposal of the South African Defense Force and the South-West Africa Territory Force.

Gen Malan also referred to allegations of atrocities against the civilian population of South-West Africa, saying the Defense Force did not turn a blind eye to such allegations. It would act on such allegations in South-West Africa and anywhere else the Defense Force operated. Liaison between the Defense Force and the local leaders had been established in all sectors of the operational area, and all complaints were investigated immediately. These leaders have already indicated that the system is working well.

Bishops' Conference Leader Mkhatshwa Released

MB081706 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1600 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Church Leader S'mangaliso Mkhatshwa was relased in Ciskei. Mkhatshwa is the secretary general of the Southern African Bishops' Conference. In a Zwelitsha magistrate's court, he was discharged by magistrate (J. Koetze) after facing charges under the Ciskei National Security Act. Mkhatshwa's council was (Dennis Kunie). He applied this morning for his client to be discharged because, he said, there was no case against him. Mkhatshwa was detained in October last year. There was international protest at his continued detention. Mkhatshwa has not yet been available for comment.

ZAMBIA

Mundia Discusses Corn Imports, Relations With Malawi

MB090812 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia has said in parliament today that he had directed Finance Minister Luke Mwananshiku to divert 2 million kwacha from other projects for the importation of corn from Malawi. The prime minister, who called on the house to support Mr Mwananshiku during a debate for the ministry's vote in carrying out some economic reforms, said Zambia had done relatively well in the face of the worldwide economic recession. He pointed out that besides the global recession, the southern African region's problems have been compounded by a 3-year drought which had forced Zambia to import corn to meet the impending shortfall.

He congratulated Mr Mwananshiku and his ministry officials for having widened the taxation base this year when the country, which 6 years ago depended on copper as the only source of revenue, was getting nothing from the mines.

In another development, Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia said Zambia has developed good and friendly working relations with Malawi as a neighbor and fellow member of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference and the Preferential Trade Area. Mr Mundia was speaking in his office today when the new Zambian high commissioner for Malawi, (Philemon Liyembe), who leaves for Lilongwe tomorrow, paid a farewell call on him. He added that since Zambia was importing corn from Malawi it was, therefore, the duty of the high commissioner to facilitate easy movement of the commodity. Mr Mundia, who said Zambia, on the other hand, was exporting cement and other items to Malawi, said it was important that Zambian diplomats in foreign missions did their best in mobilizing resources for the benefit of the country.

ZIMBABWE

Government Rounding Up, Expelling Illegal Aliens

AB090842 Lagos NAN in English 0817 GMT 9 Mar 84

[By Adewale Fatona]

[Text] Harare, Mar 8 (NAN) — The Zimbabwean Government is rounding up displaced Mozambicans and other illegal aliens for repatriation to their countries, the minister of home affairs, Simbi Mubako, said yesterday.

The southern Africa correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) reported that the minister, who was addressing the National Affairs Association in Harare, said that employers who took advantage of the plight of illegal aliens to exploit them would be prosecuted for violating the country's laws on expatriate employment.

The minister said that although it was difficult to know the exact number of displaced Mozambicans in Zimbabwe, the government was rounding up all illegal aliens and putting them in special centres where they would be screened in conjunction with their governments before their repatriation.

"The basis of the new policy is that Zimbabwe, like all developing countries, cannot improve the living standards of its citizens if foreigners keep adding to the numbers without proper control," he said.

Mr Mubako also said that the constitution had abolished dual citizenship, and that a law was being proposed to force Zimbabweans with dual citizenship to renounce one.

He said that those who had lived long enough in Zimbabwe but did not want the country's citizenship might be granted permanent residence permits.

ZANU-PF Local Chairman, 2 Teachers Killed

MB082010 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Two teachers were bayonetted by bandits near (Chipambiri) School in the Mberengwa area on Saturday last week. A

statement issued by the minister of state responsible for security, Comrade Emmerson Munangagwa, says the South African-sponsored bandits set fire to the school and robbed the (Chipambiri) School of goods and money. The bandits then went to a nearby village where they shot and killed the local ZANU-PF chairman, Comrade Zvinashe Mbezi.

In a follow-up operation, one bandit was killed yesterday in Mberengwa-West, Nicholson area. The bandit had a (?party of Zimbabwe) badge on his hat.

Previously, two captured Super-ZAPU bandits indicated two arms caches in Botswana, containing weapons which they had received from South Africa.

Explosion at Power Station Kills 1, Injures 16

MB081436 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] An explosion occurred in one of the boilers at Hwange Stage II Power Project yesterday, killing 1 person and injuring 16 others. ZIANA reports that the cause of the explosion is not yet known. Stage II of the Hwange Power Project was about to be commissioned. The general manager of the Electricity Supply Commission, Comrade Sydney Gata, and a team of senior engineers have left for Hwange to assess the damage. A Zimbabwe Electricity Council spokesman says the team is expected to complete its investigation today, after which a statement will be issued.

Botswana's Mmusi To Attend Blumeris Funeral

MB090821 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] The vice president of Botswana, Mr Peter Mmusi, arrived in Harare last night for today's funeral of the late executive secretary of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, SADCC, Comrade Arthur Blumeris, who died on Tuesday morning.

On his arrival Mr Mmusi said Comrade Blumeris' death is a severe blow to SADCC. Comrade Blumeris is to have a state funeral with the service at the Anglican Cathedral and the interment at (Warinu) cemetery.

The president, Comrade Banana, the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, government ministers, and members of the diplomatic corps will attend the funeral service.